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Business Focus lauded for helping transform island

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad praised the Business Focus group for its role in transforming Langkawi into a world-class yachting centre.

"When we decided to develop it, Langkawi was very undeveloped, not under developed.

"There was no proper water supply, electricity, telephone or hospital," the Prime Minister said when opening Business Focus' WaveMaster Langkawi Yacht Centre (WLYC) on Wednesday night.

Also present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

"We really started from scratch but Langkawi developed very quickly, and very soon we realised that there should be a yachting centre. But to become a yachting centre, we need to have certain things among which is the availability of a marina for the yachts to come in and get service."

Dr Mahathir congratulated Business Focus group executive chairman, Tan Sri Amin Shah Omar Shah, for fulfilling the Government's dream of developing Langkawi.

Amin Shah had progressed much since he undertook the shipbuilding project in 1991 when he made a "lousy 24-foot boat", Dr Mahathir recounted.

"It was taken in good stead by Amin and he has made quite some progress in the 12 years since we had our first Lima. He has progressed from building a lousy little boat to building warships, frigates and offshore patrol vessels.

"I am glad he has contributed so much to making Langkawi a yachting centre."

Meanwhile, Amin Shah said WLYC had serviced and repaired more than 140 yachts since it started operations last year.

"This yard is developed not only to provide the much needed repair and refit facility for yachts of all sizes, but also to build them."

He added that currently, the worldwide demand for newlybuilt yachts far exceeded the builders' capacity to produce them.

The facilities at WLYC include two travelifts with lifting capacity of 140 tonnes to 500 tonnes.