

23/06/2003

Dr M confident Abdullah will continue development projects

Alina Simon

LANGKAWI, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed confidence that his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will continue the country's development projects, including those in Langkawi.

Dr Mahathir said there were many development projects in other places such as Tioman.

He added that Langkawi had the potential to become a major tourist destination and his frequent visits here were aimed at keeping tabs on development projects.

"Insya Allah, (Abdullah) will give his attention to all projects. I am not doing these development projects in Langkawi alone. We also have them in Tioman and other places," he said after a oneday trip to the island.

Dr Mahathir was asked if his successor would continue giving similar attention to the development of Langkawi after he stepped down as Prime Minister in October.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived here at 11 from Kuala Lumpur last night. They left today.

After spending the night at Kampung Tok Senik, Dr Mahathir spent the better part of the day touring the development projects on the island.

While expressing satisfaction with the progress, he said he would leave it to other people to come up with new ideas to promote Langkawi.

But he said he would visit the island after his retirement.

"I will come to visit. I also want to have a chance to rest in Langkawi just like other people," he said.

Among the projects Dr Mahathir visited today were the RM40 million Langkawi Harbour Park project in Pantai Kok. The 12-ha project with Mediterranean designs will have facilities such as a boutique hotel and apartments.

Project consultant Datuk Azhar Mansor, who is the first Malaysian to navigate solo around the world, briefed Dr Mahathir on the progress.

Dr Mahathir later visited Galeria Perdana in Kilim to inspect the construction of two additional buildings worth RM24 million which are due for completion in September.

He also visited the Wavemaster luxury yacht and vessel repair and modification facility in Tanjung Lembung where he had lunch aboard the ship Obsession before dropping by the cable car project in the Oriental Village in Burau Bay.