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International yacht registry launched

reports on "LIMA 2003" by Tony Emmanuel; Marina Emmanuel; Sharanjit
PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday launched the
Langkawi International Yacht Registry, the first of its kind in the
region.

Dr Mahathir said the registry would make Langkawi and Malaysia a more
well-known destination and hoped the island could become an eastern point
where yacht owners would congregate yearly while sailing to neighbouring
countries.

"We have built many marinas in Langkawi, in the peninsula, Sabah and
Sarawak, so it is possible for yachts to sail the Straits of Malacca, stop
at the marinas and may be stay there or disembark to visit local sights,"
said Dr Mahathir.

Also present was Transport Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy.

In conjunction with the launch, the motorised pleasure yacht A. Khaliq
obtained a certificate and became the first yacht to be registered with
the registry.

Dr Mahathir presented the yacht's owner, Tan Sri Samsuddin Abdul Kadir,
who is Sapura Holdings Bhd chairman, with the certificate.

The Prime Minister assured yacht owners of the services and
infrastructure which were available.

They include 12 radar stations along the west coast of Peninsular
Malaysia and yacht repair and servicing facilities such as the WaveMaster
Langkawi Yacht Centre.