

## **Rm13.5 million allocation needed to develop Sg Batu Archaeological site**

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SUNGAI PETANI, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) will apply for a RM13.5 million allocation from the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) to develop one of the oldest site of human civilisation in Southeast Asia at the Sungai Batu Archaeological Complex near here.

Its deputy minister Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik said the amount was part of the estimated RM30 million required to turn the site into a full infrastructure complex to attract more tourists from within and outside the country.

"This area has great potential as a historical tourism product. We want another product for the mainland so that when people mention Kedah they do not just think of Langkawi and at the same time we will work to make this area a UNESCO World Heritage Site," he said during a visit to the historical site today.

Also present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir, National Heritage Department director-general Datuk Dr Zainah Ibrahim and Global Archaeological Research Centre director at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Prof Datuk Dr Mokhtar Saidin.

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