

## Langkawi to have GBI-certified holiday resort

LANGKAWI: Property developer Rahsia Estates Sdn Bhd is currently developing Langkawi's first Green Building Index (GBI)-certified holiday resort, the Rahsia Estates Resort Residences, Eco-Hotel and Spa.

The development of the facility at Kampung Temoyong, Kedawang here, started in the middle of last year and is slated for completion in mid-2016.

Rahsia Estates Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Hanizah Abdul Hamid said the project with a gross development value of RM480 million, incorporates GBI applications and features into its architecture, design, energy usage and landscaping.

"The resort is on a six-hectare site along a river estuary to the south east of the island and overlooking Pulau Dayang Bunting.

"It will comprise a five-star 116-room hotel resort, 30 luxury cabana villas and 130 resort suites, together with a non-invasive aesthetic clinic, alongside a wellness centre offering both western and traditional Asian-based spa treatment.

"It is ideally situated 10 minutes away from the popular Pantai Cenang tourist stretch and only about 15 minutes away from the island's international airport," she said here today.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir officiated an event to formally introduce the project to the people of Langkawi.

Also present was Rahsia Group of Companies chairman Tan Sri Lamin Yunus and North Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) chief executive officer Datuk Redza Rafiq Abdul Razak.

Hanizah said the GBI initiatives and

ecological preservation was Rahsia Estates main objective in creating a sustainable and green resort development in Langkawi.

"Many significant changes have been made to the project's original architectural, civil and mechanical plans, to incorporate GBI features into the development, thus the slight delay in its construction on site.

"All these changes will make the development and its surroundings a sustainable, green and ecologically friendly model. GBI-certified building materials for both interior and exterior spaces will be used wherever possible and sourced locally too," she added.

She said Rahsia Estates' brand mirrors what is being profiled in the Langkawi Tourism Blueprint, which aims to make the island an international eco-tourism destination.

Hanizah said work has already begun on the site with land clearance and the building of various retaining walls, whilst at the same time, taking extra precaution not to endanger the mangrove clusters at the sea front.

The gently undulating site is surrounded by mangrove pockets and Rahsia Estates is conscious of the need for least disturbance to the delicate eco-system.

It is working closely with the Institute for Environment and Development (Lestari) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to replant and rejuvenate certain mangrove sites during the course of construction.-- Bernama