



## RM45mil cable car the longest

LANGKAWI, Tues. — It's official: Langkawi's RM45 million cable car service, linking the Oriental Village in Burau Bay to Gunung Machinchang here, is the longest free-span mono-cable car service in the country.

Officially registered in the *Malaysia Book of Records* at a brief ceremony here today, the island's latest attraction is also a major crowd-puller, with about one million visitors recorded since its launch two years ago.

Panorama Langkawi Sdn Bhd executive director Ridza Abdoh Salleh said to date, collection from the visitors totalled RM12 million.

"Today is a very proud day for us as we have managed to enter our cable car service as the longest free-span mono-cable car service in the country.

"We owe it to the steady stream of tourists for making the cable car service a success," he told reporters.

Although locals constituted about 70 per cent of the total number of visitors, Ridza was confident the cable car service would soon draw more foreign tourists.

"We are also proud the cable car service has proved viable as its monthly collection is about RM500,000 while the operation costs are about RM300,000 a month."

Mooted by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the cable car service provides travellers with a breathtaking 15-minute ride above 4,167ha of the virgin jungles of the 708m-high Machinchang peak and the waterfalls of the legendary Telaga Tujuh (Seven Wells), as well as a panoramic view of 99 smaller islands surrounding Langkawi all the way to Kedah and south Thailand.

It has three stations — base, middle and top — supported by only two on-line towers. The 2,079m round trip takes 28 minutes.

**WE MADE IT!** Panorama Langkawi staff Rosmani Zakaria (left) and Saridah Dahalan holding up the certificate from the *Malaysia Book of Records* certifying the cable car service as the longest free-span cable car in the country.