

Metropolis KL in the making: PM

By FAUZIAH ISMAIL and KARTINI ABD. KADIR

THE multi-billion dollar Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) project, which will be one of the largest real estate developments in the world, is another step towards achieving the Government's objective of transforming the country into a developed nation by the year 2020, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

It will also enable Kuala Lumpur to join the ranks of other international metropolises, Dr Mahathir said when launching the project at Jalan Ampang yesterday. He described the development as "visionary".

The Prime Minister planted a 12-year-old *jati bukit* tree, which has a lifespan of more than 100 years, to mark the occasion.

"The project is the largest undertaking by the private sector. I am hopeful such a project can be emulated by others," he said.

"It is a testament to joint venture between the public and private sectors. Using innovative and creative ideas, the private sector can conceive an idea and turn it into reality with the continuous encouragement and support of the public sector.

"With this kind of cooperation, we will be able to carry out other developments which will benefit the present and future generations," he said.

He added that the 40.5ha KLCC — a city within a city — project located at the former Selangor Turf Club is also symbolic as it reflects the Government's commitment towards the success

and excellence of Kuala Lumpur.

It reflects a development that blends technology with Malaysia's natural heritage to create an ideal living, working and recreational environment for residents and visitors.

Dr Mahathir said he is proud that Petronas has taken a leading role in the KLCC development as the corporation's previous involvements with projects of high technology will further contribute towards the healthy growth of the city.

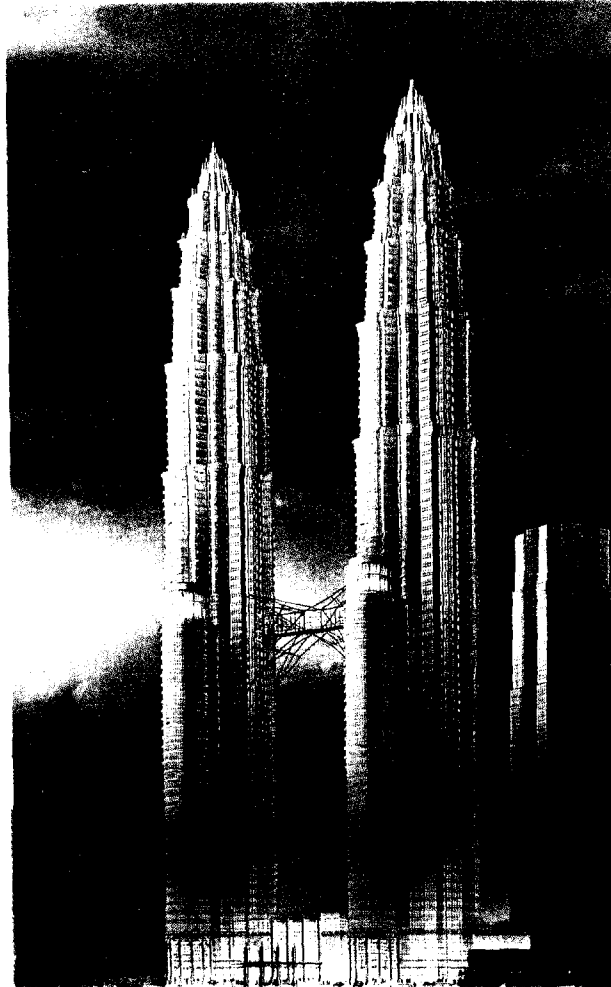
Petronas has a 51 per cent stake in Seri Kuda which set up KLCC to develop and manage the project. The remaining 49 per cent stake is held by MAI Holdings, Pacific States Investment Ltd and the Selangor Turf Club.

Petronas president Tan Sri Azizah Zainul Abidin said the corporation's participation in the project is motivated by its desire to place all its subsidiaries under one roof to facilitate work, save on overhead costs and reinforce the spirit of family togetherness among staff.

"Petronas' involvement will also enable it to have a say in the development of the environs and contribute to the overall development of the city," he added.

The project will be undertaken in stages over 15-20 years. When completed, the entire project will make available more than 18 million sq ft of commercial, retail, hotel, residential, recreational and entertainment facilities.

Funding for the project will be raised by the joint partners from both domestic and external sources. Seri Kuda has a paid-up capital



AN artist's impression of the Petronas corporate headquarters, comprising twin 85-storey towers, which will be the centrepiece of the KLCC project.

© 1992 Lee Dunnette, Renderer

of \$1.335 billion.

Petronas' corporate headquarters will occupy the twin 85-storey towers to be developed under the first phase of the KLCC, which is estimated to cost \$3 billion. Con-

struction will begin late this year and is expected to be completed in late 1995 or early 1996.

The first phase will also include a six-storey retail podium, two other high-rise

office buildings, a convention hotel and 20.2ha of tropical parkland, landscaped gardens and walkways.

When completed, it will make available 5.4 million sq ft of commercial space, 1.8 million sq ft of retail space, 800,000 sq ft of hotel and convention facilities and 7,000 parking bays.

Among the new technologies the project will introduce is the gas-driven district cooling system. Implementation of the system will further widen the use of liquefied natural gas.

The project developer is also expected to integrate transport infrastructure such as the light rail transit (LRT), which will be undertaken by City Hall, and the monorail, which has also been proposed in the development of the KLCC.

The master plan of the project was drawn up by Klages Carter Vail and Partners while RSP Architects Planners and Engineers, in association with Kumpulan Senireka Sdn Bhd, Cesar Pelli and Associates, Adamson Associates and Studios were involved in the design of the KLCC.

Other consultants involved in the project are Lehrer-McGovern Malaysia (project management), Ranhill Bersekutu and Thornton-Tomasetti Engineers (civil and structural engineering), Tenaga Ewbank Preece and Flack and Kurtz (mechanical and electrical engineering), Walker Group (retail), Wilbur Smith and Associates (traffic), Malik Lip and Associates and Belt Collins and Associates and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (park master plan).