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Mahathir-tower

MENARA KUALA LUMPUR TO BE MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 24, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched construction of the super structure of Menara Kuala Lumpur here, and said the broadcasting and telecommunications tower would expedite Kuala Lumpur's aim to be the region's communications centre.

The prime minister said the RM270 million tower, which will have sophisticated communications facilities, was a multi-purpose communications centre capable of accommodating and handling the latest technology.

The tower would also be able to assist in navigational communications, he told reporters after the launching ceremony.

The construction of the super structure of the 421-metre high tower, the world's third tallest, is the third package of the project and comprises tower shafts, the tower head and antenna.

The first package, involving earthworks and widening of the access road to the peak of Bukit Nanas, began in March last year and were completed three months later.

The second package, involving construction of the foundation, three levels of concrete structure and a temporary access road, was completed in April this year. -- more

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Mahathir-tower 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, who was briefed on the project, said he was happy that the project was keeping to schedule.

"I find that the design of the tower is more attractive than the towers in several other countries. I am very happy that the work undertaken is of a sophisticated nature and utilises high technology," he said.

The world's tallest television tower is the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada, reaching a height of 553 metres, and the next tallest is the Moscow Tower in Russia (537 metres).

Menara Kuala Lumpur, being built by German contractor Wayss and Freytagg, is the first project under the build, operate and transfer concept.

Syarikat Telekom Malaysia, which has 90 per cent equity, and Wayss and Freytagg (10 per cent) will operate the tower for 15 years before handing it over to the government.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that Malaysian engineers, architects and contractors would observe the construction of the tower to acquire the high technology put to use.

He said the tower would become a Kuala Lumpur landmark which Malaysians could be proud of. -- more

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Mahathir-tower 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir also chose golden yellow as the colour for the tower, the shade of colour changing from dark to light from base to peak.

The tower head will reflect Islamic architecture, and will have a revolving restaurant and a gallery to view the city.

The tower is expected to be completed at the end of 1995 and would be opened in early 1996.

A fee will be charged for people, including tourists, who want to go up the tower, to help pay for its maintenance. -- Bernama

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