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Tower

MENARA KUALA LUMPUR OPENS ITS DOORS TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Menara Kuala Lumpur, the world's third tallest tower, opens its doors to the public for the first time tomorrow.

The 421-metre tower, atop Bukit Nanas in the heart of the city, offers visitors a wide range of facilities like the observation platform, food outlets, souvenir shops and a revolving restaurant.

"We are targeting for Menara KL to be to Malaysia what the Eiffel Tower is to France," Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn Bhd general manager Mohd Nasir Ithnin said today during a media tour of Kuala Lumpur's latest landmark.

The company has been given the concession to plan, build and operate the tower for 15 years. Telekom Malaysia Bhd owns 90 percent of the company and Wayss & Freytag AG of Germany the rest.

Mohd Nasir said the entrance fees into the tower, which is open daily from 10am to 10pm, are RM8 for adults and RM3 for children aged four to 12. Admission is free for children aged three and below.

The observation platform, which is perched 276 metres up on the first level of the 11-level tower head, can accommodate 200 people at any one time.

"We have a computerised system which tells us if the platform is full. By then we may stop selling the tickets for a while," he said, adding that visitors should not spend more than an hour inside the platform.

One level above it is Malaysia's highest restaurant at 282 metres above ground level, the revolving Seri Angkasa which allows patrons to satisfy their palates while taking in the sights of Kuala Lumpur.

Mohd Nasir said the restaurant could accommodate 250 people and would be open to the public on Aug 1.

The tower head also houses a fire refuge area, a telecommunications station, a Radio Televisyen Malaysia station and a meteorological station.

Currently there are only 125 parking bays, including five for coaches. Plans are afoot to add another 250 parking bays to cater for the expected throng of visitors.

Mohd Nasir said special entrance fees might be introduced for the disabled and senior citizens.

Menara Kuala Lumpur will be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in September. -- BERNAMA

MAM YBY