

24 MAY 1996

PALACE OF GOLDEN HORSES NOW 30 PCT COMPLETED

KUALA LUMPUR, May 24 (Bernama) -- The Palace of Golden Horses, a 485-room five-star hotel at the Mines Resort, in Sungei Besi near here, located in the south of the city, is now 30 percent completed, said construction officials.

The RM249 million hotel, owned by Country Heights Holdings Bhd, hopes to be operational by 1998 and cater for the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

"We hope to complete the hotel by end of 1997," Gerald L. Allison, President of Wimberly, Allison, Tong & Goo (WAT&G), the consultant architect for the development, told a briefing here.

Construction commenced on Jan 7 this year when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officially launched the project.

The Palace of Golden Horses is a world class luxury resort hotel and conference centre overlooking a scenic 60-hectare lake and golf course.

Out of the 485 rooms, there would be three types of suites, of which 37 will be ministerial suites, 20 heads of state suites and two host nation suites, said Micheal L.C. Ong, the project architect.

The hotel would be operated and managed by Signature Group Hotels Sdn Bhd, which is 60 percent owned by Country Heights and 40 percent by Sovereign Hotel Group Ltd.

The Mines Resort is currently a 378.4 ha development comprising a theme park and golf course. Besides the Palace of Golden Horses, Country Heights also plans to build another hotel, a gigantic shopping mall, a business park and a canal system around the resort modelled along the lines of the Venice canal system. -- BERNAMA

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