

30 JAN 1997

BUS SERVICES TO GENTING HIGHLANDS RESORT TO STOP AT THE FOOTHILL

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- All bus services to Genting Highlands will stop at the newly built Genting Skyway Station at Gohtong Jaya by March this year.

From there, passengers will have to take an 11-minute ride in a cable car to the peak, Resorts World Bhd senior vice president Rosli Kamili told reporters at a press review on Genting Skyway Station and the company's latest hotel Highlands Hotel.

He said the move was taken to ease traffic congestion to and from the resort, especially during peak seasons. Visitors to Genting Highlands average about 28,000 a day or over nine million a year.

He said by the time of the Chinese New Year, 80 to 90 percent of the buses will stop at the foothill station.

The cable car system can accommodate more than 2,000 persons per hour each way, with each of the 105 gondolas comfortably seating eight persons.

It will be open to the public from February 1, Rosli said, adding that the trip will be free of charge until the end of March.

Rosli said Genting Skyway, which is the fastest and most advanced mono cable car system in the world with a speed of up to 21.6 km per hour, is also the longest in Southeast Asia, spanning 3.38 kilometres - from the foothill station near Gohtong Jaya to Highlands Hotel at the summit.

Genting Highlands Resort built Genting Skyway in 12 months at a total cost of over RM128 million, said Resorts World executive vice president, Tan Sri Alwi Jantan.

He said the cable car system will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed on February 21. He expects two to three million people will use it in the first year of operation.

Tan Sri Alwi also said that on the same day, Genting Highlands Resort will turn over the Genting Highlands Fire Station to the authorities and donate two state-of-the-art fire engines worth RM8 million to the government.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is also expected to officially open the Highlands Hotel built at a cost of RM439 million. Opened in February last year, the hotel has 888 rooms.

Tan Sri Alwi said occupancy rate of the group's hotels in Genting last year was around 80 to 85 percent, adding that the Highlands Hotel room rate was between RM85.00 to RM290, depending on the season.

He said with the Highlands Hotel, Genting Highlands Resort, which is part of the Genting Bhd group, now has five hotels with a total of 4,817 rooms and employs about 7,500 people. - BERNAMA.

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