

15 APR 1997

Mahathir-Sentral

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES CONSTRUCTION WORK ON "KL SENTRAL STATION"

KUALA LUMPUR, April 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight performed the ground breaking works for the "KL Sentral Station"

-- the country's rail network nerve centre.

The "KL Sentral Station" would be the terminus for the KTM Intercity Route, Putra-LRT Route, KTM Komuter Route, ERL Komuter Route and the ERL Express Route (High speed train to KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang).

Dr Mahathir said the "KL Sentral Station" would be a new landmark in fast developing Kuala Lumpur.

He said airline passengers would be able to check in at the Kuala Lumpur Sentral and board their flights at KLIA.

"They will be able to check in here and leave for KLIA via the highspeed train," he said at the site of the project at Brickfields here. The rail trip from Kuala Lumpur Sentral to KLIA is likely to take 30 minutes.

Dr Mahathir said studies were underway for an electronic system to identify baggage with the respective airline passengers.

He said the baggage should be handled efficiently for the convenience of passengers and flight safety.

The "Kuala Lumpur Sentral Station" is scheduled for completion in the middle of 1999.

Dr Mahathir said even though the existing Kuala Lumpur Railway Station was an attractive building, a new station was still necessary in view of the increasing number of train passengers.

The new six-storey railway station would have 12 platforms and be able to handle 140,000 passengers daily up to the year 2000 and 100 million yearly by the year 2020.

The project is being developed by Malaysia Resources Cooperation Bhd (MRCB) and Keratapi Tanah Melayu Bhd.

Dr Mahathir also held a teleconference with the panel of international advisers on the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in Washington.

Dr Mahathir explained the MSC and the Cyberbills now before Parliament.

-- BERNAMA

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