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Dr Mahathir, ministers visit KLCC

Kamarul Yunus

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Cabinet ministers took time off their busy schedules to tour the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) project, particularly the Petronas Twin Towers, yesterday.

This is the first time Dr Mahathir is visiting KLCC with the other Cabinet ministers although he had conducted many site inspections before the staff of Petronas began occupying the Twin Towers last month.

The 88-storey Twin Towers - at a height of 451.9 metres above ground level - has been certified as the world's tallest building by the World Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

It is part of the KLCC project and forms part of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Dr Mahathir, his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the other Cabinet ministers were briefed on the progress of the project by Kuala Lumpur City Centre Bhd managing director Abdul Rahim Naim. The group spent more than two hours at the Twin Towers.

They went up as far as the 86th floor, which will be the highest occupied level.

The Twin Towers' structural works were completed at the end of last year, about four years after the project was launched by Dr Mahathir on September 15 1992.

The two buildings - "Menara Satu" and "Menara Dua" - are linked by a sky bridge on the 41st floor, which is 178 metres above ground level. Each tower has 29 double-deck high-speed passenger lifts.

The first tower was built by a Japanese-US-Malaysian consortium comprising Hazama Corp and Mitsubishi Corp of Japan, J.A. Jones Construction and Co of the US, and MMC Engineering Services and Ho Hup Construction Co of Malaysia.

The second tower was built by SKJ Consortium comprising Samsung Engineering and Construction and Kukdong (both South Korean companies) and a local company, Jasatera. Samsung has a 50 per cent stake in SKJ Consortium, while Kukdong and Jasatera has a 30 per cent and 20 per cent stake respectively.

A total of 166 Petronas employees were the first batch of occupants of the Twin Towers when they moved into the building on January 27.

Some 5,000 Petronas employees from the Klang Valley will occupy the entire "Menara Satu" in stages. The exercise is expected to be completed by August.

The other tower will be rented out with the first tenants expected to move in by June.

Adjacent to the Twin Towers' podium block will be a six-level retail and entertainment centre called Suria KLCC, which will be managed by KLCC Holdings Sdn Bhd (60 per cent), together with Netherlands-based Rodamco NV (30 per cent) and Westfield Holdings Ltd of Australia (10 per cent), as joint venture partners.

It is understood that anchor tenants for Suria KLCC will be Isetan of Japan and Marks & Spencer, which will open their flagship stores there.

Apart from the Twin Towers, Menara Esso - owned jointly by Pernas International Holdings Bhd and the Kuala Lumpur City Centre Bhd - is one of the buildings constructed under Phase One of the KLCC development.

Esso began moving its employees to the 30-storey building last November.

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