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Genting Skyway takes only 11 minutes to reach resort

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Fri. - Holidaymakers can now go up Genting Highlands in modern and high-tech cable cars in only 11 minutes as the Genting Skyway is ready for action.

The skyway was designed to ease traffic congestion to and from the mountain, especially during the peak seasons, Resorts World Berhad chairman Tan Sri Lim Goh Tong said today.

Lim said they are at the moment planning the second phase of the skyway which will link the Gohtong Jaya station with Kuala Lumpur's mass transit transportation system, the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang and West Port in Port Klang.

Genting Skyway, the longest cable car system in Southeast Asia measuring 3.38 kilometres from Gohtong Jaya to the new Highlands Hotel, was opened to the public on Feb 1.

It can transport 2,000 passengers per hour where each cable car or gondola seats eight people.

"This is indeed fast, efficient, comfortable, safe and an affordable means of getting to the peak," Lim said at the opening of the Genting Skyway by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Visitors can now be seated comfortably in the gondolas while admiring the flora and fauna enveloping the Ulu Kali range," Lim said, adding that the rides will be free until March 30, after which RM2 will be charged for a one-way trip.

The skyway has 100 gondolas, manufactured by Leitner SPA of Italy. Eighty of them will be online and 20 at the station.

The main station at the foothill of Gohtong Jaya will allow guests of the resort's hotel to check in and leave their baggage before getting on board the cable cars.

Lim, whose speech was read by Genting Berhad managing director Datuk K.T. Lim, said every step was taken to ensure the safety of the system and network.

The skyway, which is the fastest and most advanced mono cable car ride in the world, uses the detachable circulating ropeway system that complies with Swiss safety regulations.

The electrically powered skyway is equipped with rescue equipment, cable-to-station communication and on the ground rescue tracks.

Each pylon is accessible via rescue tracks on ground, while each gondola houses safety equipment and has two-way communication to the station.

Dr Mahathir also witnessed the handing over of the Genting Highlands fire services and rescue department to the Government, with Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh.

Lim said Genting Highlands Resort had been the sole provider of fire preventive services and security for its operations since its initial days.

"However, due to the entry of other developers over the last few years, the responsibility of providing the fire service and rescue for everyone needs further examination," he said.

The fire station is available for use by the Federal Fire Services and Rescue Department which is equipped with the latest technology.

Two units of advanced fire engines with working heights of 53 metres, worth RM8 million, were donated to the Government.

The third event was the official opening of the Highlands Hotel situated

2,000m above sea level by the Prime Minister.

Lim said it has 888 rooms, comprising standard deluxe rooms, suites and penthouses.

"Highlands Hotel joins Genting Hotel, Resort Hotel, Theme Park Hotel and the Awana Tower Hotel to create a total of 4,817 rooms for both local and foreign holidaymakers," he added.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Mohamed Ali Rustam were present.

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