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PM to open Genting Skyway

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Genting Skyway, the longest cable car system in Southeast Asia, will be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Genting Highlands on Friday.

Running 3.38km, it is the fastest and most advanced mono cable car system in the world.

It is operated on the detachable circulating ropeway system.

The cable cars can whisk 2,000 passengers per hour from its station in Gohtong Jaya to the new Highlands Hotel in just 11 minutes compared to a bus ride of 25 to 35 minutes.

The skyway has 100 cabins, or gondolas, manufactured by Leitner SPA of Italy. Each cabin seats eight people. Eighty of the gondolas will be online and 20 at the station.

Passengers can enjoy a panoramic view of temperate flora.

The RM128 million Genting Skyway was built to reduce traffic congestion to and from the resort.

Passengers will be given free rides until March 31, after which RM2 will be charged for a one-way trip.

Dr Mahathir will also open the Highlands Hotel which joins the Genting Hotel, Resort Hotel, Theme Park Hotel and Awana Tower Hotel.

It was built at RM439 million and cuts a majestic figure in the mountain's skyline.

A hundred and sixty slope patterns were analysed by building engineers before the best one was chosen. The building was then anchored into a rock bed at a depth of 45 metres, with more than 600 anchors averaging three metres each.

The hotel, about a year old, won the Award of Special Merit for geotechnical engineering. It has a bowling alley, fast food outlet and snooker centre.

Dr Mahathir will also witness the handing over of fire service responsibility from the Genting Highlands fire station to the Government.

The resort will hand over two fire engines, costing RM8 million, to the Government on that day.

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