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Mahathir - duty free

DR MAHATHIR TO LAUNCH JB DUTY FREE COMPLEX SATURDAY

JOHOR BAHRU, April 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to inaugurate the Johor Baharu Duty Free Complex, one of the region's largest, on Saturday, a statement said today.

The complex, built on a 6.8-hectare site in Jalan Ibrahim here, faces Singapore's Senoko Power Station across the Tebrau Straits.

The complex, offering one-stop duty free shopping, dining and entertainment, transportation, accommodation and convention facilities, was developed by Kelana Megah Sdn Bhd, a member of Sriwani Holdings Bhd, a diversified listed company engaged in tourism-related activities.

The complex has a shopping podium comprising four levels and a basement totalling over 30,000 sq metres of retail space and more than 180 boutique shoplots, the statement said.

The Eden Garden Hotel, an integral part of the complex, is the only hotel here with direct sea-front view and the 1,000 capacity grand ballroom there is reputedly the "largest column-free ballroom in southern peninsula."

Another integral component of the complex is the ultra-modern Johor Baharu International Ferry Terminal for services to Tanah Merah in Singapore, Indonesia's Batam and Bintan islands and Tanjung Belungkor, near Desaru.

The terminal has direct links to regional passenger seaports in the Riau Archipelago, Tioman and Sibu Islands.

The statement added that the terminal's berthing facilities can handle up to eight ferry arrivals per hour. -- BERNAMA

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