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Mahathir-Hotel/PIX

PM OPENS PALACE OF GOLDEN HORSES HOTEL

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the RM250 million Palace of the Golden Horses hotel in Seri Kembangan here this evening with the hope that the tourism industry will pick up soon for the benefit of hotels in the country.

Dr Mahathir said it was time for foreigners to notice that Malaysians were capable of building beautiful hotels.

"Malaysia has good constructors who can build good, beautiful buildings and I am proud of the hotel built in Malaysia," he said in his opening address.

In jest, he described the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel as the "most luxurious stable in the world".

"But then if you have golden horses, you need to have luxurious stables," he said drawing laughter from the 500 guests present.

He said the hotel was unique and that many guests had praised it after staying there.

Commenting on the video presentation of the hotel's 22 months of construction, he said his repeated visits during that time testified to his fascination with construction sites as opposed to other people who liked activities like golfing and football.

Among the guest who have stayed at the hotel were Queen Elizabeth, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

The 481-room luxury hotel is one of seven landmarks of the RM1.5 billion Mines Resort City development project undertaken by Country Heights Group of Companies.

The lake-front hotel is adorned by graceful domes, turrets and towers similar to the ones at the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, honouring Moorish architecture in the Malay tradition.

The sprawling complex which occupies an area covering 5.5 hectares, highlights the central theme of the horse which embraces every facet of the hotel.

Beautiful wood carvings have been incorporated in most of the components of the hotel reflecting Malaysian skills at their best.

The hotel will be the venue of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum summit starting Nov 11.

-- BERNAMA

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