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RESORT-BORNEO
BORNEO HIGHLANDS RESORT TO OPEN IN NOVEMBER

KUCHING, July 2 (Bernama) -- The first phase of the Borneo Highlands Resort, an eco-friendly highland retreat, about 70 km from here, is expected to be completed by November.

The resort is a joint venture between Country Heights Holding Bhd, which owns 70 percent, and Sarawak's Land Custody and Development Authority (Pelita), 30 percent.

Country Heights managing director Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew said today the initial project costing RM100 million would have the infrastructure ready by then.

The infrastructure will include a 30 km access road, a unique internal highland road system besides a 60-room golf hotel, five chalets, 120 resident bungalow lots, an 18-hole golf course and a chrysanthemum garden.

However, the development of the whole project, estimated at RM500 million, would be staggered over five phases. It is expected to be fully completed after 2005, Lee told reporters at a media briefing at the resort, situated within a 2,300-hectare plateau in the Penrissen Highlands near here.

He said work on the project, started in 1995, had continued uninterrupted despite the difficult economic conditions in the past two years.

"This resort will be the first of its kind in Borneo aimed at promoting ecotourism by conserving and enhancing tourist attractions, including a large portion which would be left in its natural forested state," he said.

He was confident that the resort could attract 200,000 international and domestic visitors annually, especially to its theme garden.

Among activities in the pipeline for next year would be the holding of a flower festival similar to the annual Chelsea Flower Fest in England, he said.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to officiate at the opening of the resort. -- BERNAMA

CJ SHY