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PM to launch Twin Towers on Aug 31

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the RM1.8 billion Petronas Twin Towers during a glittering night ceremony on Aug 31, in conjunction with the National Day.

Some 1,200 invited guests will take part in the outdoor event, with a laser show and fireworks expected to set the right mood for the occasion.

Workmen can already be seen constructing the staging area, located in a central position between the base of the two towers.

Full details of the event however, remain veiled in secrecy until a Press briefing two hours before the launch, which is scheduled to begin at 9pm.

Building the stainless steel, glass and concrete towers proved to be one of the most ambitious construction projects ever undertaken in the country.

A total of 65,000 square metres of stainless steel cladding, 77,000 sq m of glass and 36,910 tonnes of steel were eventually used before the towers were completed last year.

Petronas officials today led newsmen on a two-hour tour of the towers' facilities in conjunction with the upcoming launch. Earlier, Petronas chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin also led a media briefing.

Questions ranged from the towers' occupancy rate (100 per cent in Tower One and 46 per cent in Tower Two) to the possibility of the Twin Towers "starring" in another Hollywood production, as it did in this year's "Entrapment."

"We have made one attempt and I don't think Malaysians were too happy with it," Azizan laughed, referring to how some Malaysians were disgruntled with the way "Entrapment" portrayed Kuala Lumpur.

He jokingly added: "But our park may be suitable for an Indian film. We hope the Indian film industry will be interested."

Yesterday, Petronas also launched its revamped website (<http://www.petronas.com.my>), which will carry a live broadcast of the official launching ceremony next Tuesday.

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