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# Construction contributes to economic growth, says PM

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat:** The construction industry is a vibrant sector that has contributed to the growth of the country's economy and will remain a key player in the economy, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said many buildings in the city suffer from low occupancy rates and called on developers and building owners to make efforts to woo investors and businesses to take up space in these buildings.

He was speaking at the renaming and topping out ceremony of Berjaya City which is renamed Berjaya Times Square.

Also present at the ceremony was the Datuk Bandar of Kuala Lumpur, Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff, and chairman and chief executive officer of Berjaya Group Bhd, Tan Sri Vincent Tan.

Tan said that Berjaya Times Square will be completed and be operational within 20 months.

He said the project, started five years ago, faced setbacks during the economic crisis, delaying construction.

Tan thanked consortium lenders headed by Arab Malaysia Banking Group for their support, especially during the economic crisis.

Other members of the consortium include Bumiputra Commerce Bank, Perwira Af-

fin Bank, PhileoAllied Bank, Ban Hin Lee Bank and BSN Commercial Bank.

"Berjaya Times Square is a RM1.9 billion project and will grow to become a popular tourist destination in the city," Tan said.