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Berjaya Times Square KL - nation's largest shopping centre

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - With 7.5 million square feet of built up floor space, the Berjaya Times Square Kuala Lumpur is set to become Malaysia's largest shopping and entertainment centre.

Scheduled for completion in June 2002, it will contain a shopping mall, a food and entertainment centre, an indoor theme park, hotel and service suites and corporate office space.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today visited the project site at Jalan Imbi where he renamed the former Berjaya Star City project.

In his speech at the name changing ceremony, Dr Mahathir said he hoped the RM1.9 billion structure would be able to attract more tourists into the country and enhance Kuala Lumpur's skyline.

Also present were Berjaya Group Berhad chairman and chief executive officer Tan Sri Vincent Tan and Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Sharif.

Dr Mahathir said the construction industry contributed significantly to the country's economic development, especially in coming out of the 1997 economic downturn.

He also expressed hope that the negative observations by foreign investors who pointed out that Kuala Lumpur's newly completed buildings were not attracting tenants, would be proved otherwise.

When completed, Berjaya Times Square Kuala Lumpur will not only be Malaysia's largest integrated shopping destination but also become one of the largest buildings in the world.

The project, which is now 65 per cent complete, is located on a 5.08 hectare site, housing six complementary buildings in a single structure encompassing 47 storeys.

Earlier, in his speech, Tan said the project started in October 1995 but was delayed due to the economic crisis.

Besides housing 12 anchor tenants and 800 shoplots, Tan said the building would also have a 56-lane bowling alley, 50 cafes, bistros and restaurants and eight cinemas.

The building would house a Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange share trading room, indoor theme park and an extreme sports arena offering games including skateboarding and rockwall climbing.

Dr Mahathir later conducted a "topping out" ceremony on the building's 46th floor by cementing a commemorative plaque.

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