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Petronas Twin Towers' double-deck skybridge open to public from today

Izatun Hanim Shari

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Finally, after a long wait, the world's tallest buildings - the Petronas Twin Towers - is open to the public.

However, visitors will only be allowed up to the 41st floor where the skybridge is located.

The double-deck skybridge connects the 452-metre towers at the 41st and 42nd floors.

The 41st floor is 170 metres above street level while its length is 58.4 metres. There are 29 double-deck high-speed lifts and 10 escalators in each tower.

Petronas legal and public affairs manager Azman Ibrahim said the opening of the tower to the public was to give them the opportunity to see part of the Petronas Twin Towers' architectural design, besides enjoying the view of Kuala Lumpur.

Azman said: "The Petronas Twin Towers is the pride of the nation and it is only fair to allow people to experience it for themselves."

At least 400 visitors were expected to visit the skybridge each day. In groups of 20, they could spend up to 15 minutes on the skybridge each time.

The visiting hours are from 10am to 12.45pm and from 3pm to 4.45pm from Tuesday to Sunday. On Friday, it is from 10am to 12.15pm.

Admission is free.

Petronas senior general manager (Legal and Corporate Affairs Division) Mohd Azhar Osman Khairuddin said since the national oil corporation moved into Tower One and companies started taking up space at Tower Two in 1997, it had received many requests from members of the public and tour operators for it to be open for public visits.

"We had not allowed this earlier because the Twin Towers were originally not built for such purpose and also security was our main concern.

"But after reviewing such requests, we have decided to open it to the public.

"The Cabinet has agreed to this," he said.

The 88-storey twin towers were officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 31 last year.

Forming a part of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) mega project, the towers were designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli.

The construction of the towers was completed in March 1996 and declared the world's tallest building by the United States-based Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats the following month.

The twin towers are home to a number of multi-national corporations, Malaysia's first philharmonic hall with 864 seats, Petronas Art Gallery and the Suria KLCC mall.

Tower One is now fully occupied by Petronas and its subsidiary companies while Tower Two is 50 per cent tenanted by private sector companies.