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## Berjaya Times Square opens for business

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Berjaya Times Square, the city's newest landmark in Jalan Imbi, opened its doors to the public today after a four-year delay.

It was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who said the Government was very happy to see the project completed as it would become another tourist attraction and contributor to the economy.

"I have followed the construction of Berjaya Times Square over a very long period. It was beset with so many problems. But now the Government is very happy that it has been completed as it will benefit many," Dr Mahathir said at the opening ceremony.

It took nine years to complete the RM1.85 billion project, which includes a shopping mall, theme park, office space and five-star service apartments. It was originally scheduled for completion in 1999.

Dr Mahathir said even during the project's development phase, it had contributed to the economy by providing employment in the construction sector.

"Suppliers of building materials also benefited from the project. Now that it is completed, more people can find employment here."

He said this was an example of how Malaysia had plenty of job opportunities.

On the tourist potential, he said Berjaya Times Square was so big and had so much to offer that tourists could spend days in the complex.

In jest, Dr Mahathir quipped: "We now have another shopping complex for KL people who seem to have an endless amount of money to spend."

The complex has 675,000 sq metres of built-up area.

It has a 12-storey shopping mall with 900 retail outlets, 65 eating outlets, a 56-lane bowling alley, a nine-screen cinema complex, two department stores, the Cosmo's World Theme Park and an IMAX three-dimensional theatre.

Chairman of Berjaya Group Bhd and Berjaya Times Square Sdn Bhd Tan Sri Vincent Tan, in his speech earlier, said the landmark was a dream come true after the four-year delay.

The lavish opening ceremony was attended by Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, some deputy ministers, heads of foreign mission and several hundred guests.