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`Pondok Polis' to ensure Times Square safe place for tourists and visitors

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The biggest shopping complex in the country - Times Square - will have a police beat operating in the compound of the complex itself to ensure the safety of tourists and visitors.

Built by the Berjaya Group, the Pondok Polis was opened today by city chief police officer Deputy Commissioner Datuk Dell Akbar Khan.

The company also provided the police with two Modenas motorcycles for patrolling the area outside the mall.

The total cost of the police beat including the motorcycles was RM300,000.

Also present were his deputy, Senior Assistant Commissioner (I) Datuk Ahmad Bahrin Idrus and Criminal Investigation Department chief Senior Assistant Commissioner (II) Kamaruddin Mat Desa.

Others present were Dang Wangi police chief Assistant Commissioner Hadi Ho Abdullah, Brickfields police chief Assistant Commissioner Zul Hasnan Najib Baharuddin and Sentul police chief Assistant Commissioner Ayob Mohamad.

"I really appreciate the effort by the Berjaya Group.

"The co-operation between the mall's security and our police personnel is a win-win situation to curb crime here," Dell said.

He also said there would be two tourist police working on eight-hour shifts and non-uniformed police would drop in at the mall from time to time to ensure patrons' safety.

"By having a Pondok Polis people will feel safe, and we really want our tourists to know that Malaysia is a haven for tourism."

Dell added that he was very happy to see that Berjaya Group Bhd chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan, who was also present at the function, was personally involved in getting the police beat together.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open Times Square on Monday.

The complex, located on a 7.5 million sq ft built-up area, will be the largest project of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tan said he was very happy to have the police beat at the mall as it would give patrons an extra sense of security.

"We have 326 closed-circuit cameras in the mall, mostly at the car park areas, and have hired 300 security guards," Tan said.