

**Mega-tower: 'We need it because we can do it'**  
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Tourism Minister Dr Ng Yen Yen defended the need for yet another super skyscraper, despite already having the iconic Petronas Twin Towers.

"There is no end because everybody wants a tallest tower. Shanghai and Taiwan want more, so why should we hold back?" said Ng (*right*), when met at the Parliament lobby today.

She said that the proposed 100-story Warisan Merdeka tower will be a symbol of Malaysia's continued progress, prosperity and 'can do' spirit.

"The most important thing is that we can do it. Why should we hold back?" she said.

As far as tourism is concerned, Ng said that the building would put Malaysia on the world map.

"The building serves to balance Malaysia's traditional cultures and pursuit for modernity. This will put Malaysia on the tourist map," she added.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department SK Devamany said that the new skyscraper would serve as an inspiration for the public.

"The nation must have a dream. We had the Twin Towers and KLCC. Now, the 100-story building will be the new 'Malaysia boleh'. This is good because we all need to dream.

"All these projects that are coming under the Great Kuala Lumpur plan and other mega-projects will bring in foreign investors that will spur the economy," he said.

Focus on human capital, not skyscrapers

Chest-beating aside, Deputy Finance Minister Donald Lim said that Warisan Merdeka Tower would spruce up its surroundings, including the historic Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Negara.

"(Both buildings are) a little bit outdated and have not been used (of late). When you build a commercial centre there, you are able to attract more foreign companies to set up their headquarters here.

"We lack space in Kuala Lumpur. A lot of multinationals are looking at modern buildings with adequate facilities," he said.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng (*left*) was, however, less than enthusiastic, saying that the new skyscraper does little to resolve the source of Malaysia's economic woes: our lack of human capital.

"What is more important? Human capital or physical projects? We have enough big buildings. Why do we need another 100-storey tower? This is a waste of resources.

"If we want to become a high income country, we cannot just talk about tall buildings but human resources. I don't think we will achieve (growth) targets with a 100-storey tower,"

said Lim, who is also Bagan MP.

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