

Malacca to build 110m-high revolving tower

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MALACCA: A 110m-high revolving tower, located a stone's throw from the Studhuys, will be the historical city's newest landmark when completed in January 2008.

The RM21mil tower is designed in the shape of legendary warrior Hang Tuah's *Taming Sari Keris*.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said the tower, which can accommodate 80 people, has a 360-degree revolving cabin.

He said it would provide a panoramic view of Malacca and development in the surrounding areas.

He was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony performed by Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

Kumpulan Melaka Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state government, is building the tower.

Dr Rais said the tower is set to be a new icon for the historical state

soon and he was confident that it would attract 500,000 visitors a year.

He said he had informed the Cabinet on the proposal to build the tower.

Quashing the notion that the modern architecture would not blend with old buildings in the heritage zone in Bandar Hilir, Dr Rais said the tower would complement the existing tourist sites.

"We can accept it if the modern structure is a pretty one.

"Criticism made against the tower that it would affect the beauty of the environment, heritage and tourism demand in the state is baseless," he said.

"As long as it does not harm the ecology, historical and heritage attractions of the state but provide add-ons to attract tourists, we should go for it," he added.