

# NEW GROWTH CATALYST FOR KUALA LUMPUR

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Local community also urged to boost attractiveness of surrounding areas pg. 16

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**T**HE Merdeka 118 tower will be the new economic catalyst for Kuala Lumpur, complementing other areas that are rapidly developing such as KLCC and KL Sentral, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday.

"The Merdeka 118 development can also provide economic opportunities to the local community, especially in nearby areas such as Petaling Street, Kampung Attap and Pudu," he said at a ceremony to announce the completion of the tower spire, here, yesterday.

Also present were Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Work Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Federal Territories Minister Shahidan Kassim, Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) group chairman Tun Arifin Zakaria and PNB president and chief executive Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn.

Ismail Sabri said apart from seizing the business opportunities, the local community could also organise activities to increase the attractiveness of the areas around Merdeka 118 by signing up to the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme.

Applications for the grants



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob 'completing' the Merdeka 118 tower spire at a ceremony yesterday. With him are Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) group chairman Tun Arifin Zakaria (left) and PNB president and chief executive officer Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn (right). BERNAMA PIC.

were opened from June 28 to Aug 20 for the three categories of sports, arts and business community.

The programme is aimed at empowering the local community and building resilient businesses, institutions and community organisations.

This comprises five key locations, namely Petaling Street, Jalan Hang Tuah, the Sports Quadrant1, Kampung Attap and Pudu precincts.

Meanwhile, Zulqarnain said the Merdeka 118 tower was 85 per cent completed and on track to be

completed by late next year.

The construction of the iconic tower was delayed by more than six months due to the Movement Control Order restrictions to halt the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Today, I am excited to announce the incredible engineering achievement attained. We thank everyone who contributed to this important milestone," he said.

Spanning over 3.1 million sq ft of floor area, Merdeka 118 includes 1.7 million sq ft of net lettable Premium Grade-A rentable

office space.

The top 17 floors will house the first and only Park Hyatt Hotel in Malaysia.

The tower includes unique features such as The View at 118, the highest observation deck in Southeast Asia.

Setting new benchmarks in sustainability, Merdeka 118 will be the first building in the country to earn a platinum rating with international sustainability certifications, namely Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Green Real Estate and Green Building Index.