

Tower gets green building platinum rating

By Vanessa Ee-Lyn Gomes
vanessa@mmail.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR — The Public Works Department's Menara Kerja Raya in Jalan Sultan Salahuddin is the first government building to receive the Green Building Index (GBI) platinum rating.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who officially opened the building yesterday, said it also was rated the 10th best new tower in the world by *Business Insider*, a United Kingdom-based magazine, in its October issue.

It also won second place in the Asean Energy Awards' Green Building category this year. On Nov 5, it won first place at the Malaysia Property Awards in the Public Sector category.

"The recognition not only shows the high level of quality achieved, but the environmentally-friendly status proves the government's determination to implement the concept of sustainable development."

The tower, a project under the 10th Malaysia Plan, stands at 175m and has 37 floors with two basement parking floors.

The project costing about RM309 million was completed on April 15 last year, taking about 130 weeks to complete.

Najib also said while heading towards the National Transformation Policy 2050, the development aspects, whether in the private or government sector, must adapt to environmentally-friendly and sustainable development concepts.

"Based on our current achievement, I am confident the country can achieve the target of 40 per cent reduced carbon emission or greenhouse gases by 2020," he said.

"Malaysia is also committed to reducing carbon emission by 45 per cent by 2030, as stated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris last year."

Najib dubbed those working with the Public Works Ministry as unsung heroes



Najib with (from left) Works Department director-general Datuk Seri Dr Roslan Md Taha, Deputy Works Minister Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, Fadilah, the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Seri Zohari Akob and the department's deputy director-general Datuk Seri Amer Yunus in front of the new tower. — Picture by Ahmad Zamzahuri

who had silently contributed to the country's development.

"When we look at the tower, we see it standing grandly. It's not about the building but the heart and mind," he said.

"You should be inspired when you look at this tower. Inspired to lead with innovative thinking and action. Sometimes, I think you don't get enough credit for what you have done."

Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadilah

Yusof said the principles applied for the tower should be adapted in all development projects in the future.

"Although the cost to build an environmentally-friendly building is higher than a conventional building, its returns to the country are more, ensuring the country a good future," he said.

"This is the way forward and together with the department, I will take the lead in championing green buildings for government projects."

“When we look at the tower, we see it standing grandly. It's not about the building, but the heart and mind.”

— Najib