

Plan for Perang Besar admin centre approved

By FAUZIAH ISMAIL and FADZIL GHAZALI

THE Government has approved the structural plan for the Perang Besar Administrative Centre, located midway between Kuala Lumpur and the proposed KL International Airport Sepang in Selangor.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said most of the Federal Government departments which do not have their own buildings will be relocated at the 10,000ha site at Perang Besar to ease congestion in the Federal capital.

"The Government has approved the structural plan. Once the building construction plans are ready, construction work will begin," he told reporters after opening the Public Services Department (PSD) RM70 million complex at Jalan Tun Ismail in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the new government buildings will be much more attractive compared with some of the existing government buildings which look like enlarged cigarette boxes.

"During the British rule, designs of government buildings were the best.

"The designs of new buildings now cost a little more but they are of a higher quality and are more durable. We are now able to spend a little bit more for

such buildings in view of the improving economy.

"The design of future government buildings will also incorporate our cultural elements so that it reflects our own identity," he said.

Besides the PSD complex, among government buildings which are more attractive and more conducive as a working environment include the National Institute

of Public Administration (Intan) complex at Bukit Kiara in Damansara and the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding near Jalan Duta.

The PSD complex houses seven main divisions of the Department (with the exception of Intan).

Later when speaking to reporters after visiting West

Port in Klang, Dr Mahathir said Perang Besar will be turned into an administrative capital while Kuala Lumpur becomes the financial and commercial capital.

Ministries dealing with commerce and finance will remain in Kuala Lumpur.

"And, we may change the name ... we are not at war with anybody," he quipped.

The Government had frozen all land transactions around the area. However, not all 10,000ha will be used for the administrative capital.

Landowners whose land are not affected with the project can develop their land but they must adhere to the general plan of the area.

Meanwhile, Public Works Department director-general Tan Sri Wan Abdul Rahman Yaacob said the department is involved in the design of the centre. Seven private companies are involved.

Work on the new centre is expected to begin next year. "All government buildings in Perang Besar will have features similar to the Sultan Abdul Samad Building in front of the Royal Selangor Club Padang in Kuala Lumpur.

"One of the first Federal Government Departments to move to Perang Besar will be the Prime Minister's Department," he said.

The project is being undertaken by local planners with the cooperation of the relevant government agencies.

On the proposed KL International Airport in Sepang, Wan Abdul Rahman said work on the project is on schedule and will be completed by 1998.

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