

# Tuesday launch for

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the Putrajaya federal administrative centre in Sepang, Selangor, which is based on a futuristic garden city concept, on Tuesday.

As part of the historic ceremony, Dr Mahathir will symbolically unveil a landmark of the new city comprising a 15-metre tower draped by a large stainless steel Malaysian flag.

Deputy secretary-general of the Prime Minister's Department Ahmad Bakri Shabdin, briefing reporters today on the ceremony at Federal House, said the abstract work of art by local architect Hijjas Kasturi symbolises the development concept of Putrajaya.

"It is based on the fundamental trinity of human relationships — between man and his Creator, man and his fellow man, and man and his environment.

"The Putrajaya landmark will be located on the site of the 20-hectare Oval Garden at the entrance to the Prime Minister's proposed new office which will be built on the highest point in the new city."

Dr Mahathir will also bury at the Putrajaya landmark a time capsule containing several documents pertaining to the new city.

These include the original masterplan as approved by the Cabinet, the agreement between Selangor and the

Federal Government as regard to the administration of Putrajaya, the Parliament Act on the setting up a corporation to administer the city and a copy of the corporate brochure of Putrajaya.

Ahmad Bakri said about 500 guests were expected for the event.

Present at the ceremony will be Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and the Selangor State Secretary Datuk Tik Mustafa.

Others include representatives of the Federal Government of the various sectors, representatives of State Governments, various professional bodies as well as the engineers, architects, draftsmen, surveyors and land office staff involved in the project.

Ahmad Bakri said Dr Mahathir will also visit an exhibition area where about 30 exhibits based on the various buildings and conceptualised scenario of the new city would be showcased.

He said workers were now busy putting the finishing

touches to the landmark structure and various models of the city's landscape.

Ahmad Bakri said the organisers would also provide closed circuit television coverage to ensure that all those present at the ceremony could watch the proceedings as well as to ensure a close-up view of Dr Mahathir launching the new city. The Radio dan Televisyen Malaysia is making arrangements to carry the event live.

Ahmad Bakri also provided reporters a peek into Putrajaya's future and said the

# Putrajaya centre

garden city set amidst rolling hills and which offered a panoramic view would have a stadium, a 78-metre Central boulevard, man-made lakes, watersport complex, ferries and tramways.

He said once completed, the Central Boulevard would be the focal point of future National Day parades while about 600 hectares of the area, which will be flooded on completion of a dam at Sungai Chua, would be plied by ferries.

On transportation needs of the garden city, which is about 30 minutes' drive from Kuala Lumpur, Ahmad Bakri said it would have an express rail link which will connect Putrajaya with Kuala Lumpur and the KL International Airport.

"Private vehicles will be discouraged in the core area and as such a variety of public transportation modes will be provided.

"Putrajaya's transportation strategy aims at providing an efficient transportation system for intercity and intracity movements."

Ahmad Bakri said tramways will serve the core area of the city with stops at suitable intervals to minimise walking distance while the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system will provide stations linking the main nodes within the core area.

Public buses will serve areas not serviced by the tramways and LRT while

taxis will be allowed in the core area and integrated with the city's other transportation modes.

Ferry services will be planned for commuting between the core area and the lakeshore districts.

Ahmad Bakri said there will be six transportation terminals at strategic locations, including a Main Terminal complex. All these terminals will be built based on the park and ride concept.

A dedicated highway will link Putrajaya with Kuala Lumpur and the KL International Airport. In addition, four main accesses will be provided from the expressway network.

Ahmad Bakri said a wetlands area was also planned within the fringes of Putrajaya and added that this would spawn its own fauna.

He said Putrajaya, named after the nation's first Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, was conceived and planned for by Malaysians.

Moving the national administrative machinery from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya is in line with the Government's policy to provide a more balanced development away from Kuala Lumpur.

"It is a decision motivated by the Government's desire to improve the urban environment and quality of life in Kuala Lumpur and ensure continued growth in

the Klang Valley."

In June 1993, the Cabinet approved Perang Besar as the site for the development of Putrajaya in view of its strategic location along the Kuala Lumpur and KL International Airport growth corridor.

In December 1993, the Government appointed six local consultants, together with the Town and Country Planning Department and the Public Works Department to prepare the development plan for Putrajaya.

On Feb 22 1995, the plan was approved by the Cabinet. Of the five concept designs presented to the Government, the Garden City concept was selected.

Based on this concept, a Structure Plan encompassing an area of 14,780ha was prepared with the concurrence of the Selangor Government to guide the development of Putrajaya and its surrounding areas.

The Structure Plan area will accommodate an estimated population of 570,000, of which 250,000 will live within Putrajaya. Concurrently, a masterplan was prepared, focussing on the development of Putrajaya covering an area of 4,400ha.

This includes the core area, the neighbourhoods, parklands and other supporting facilities. An estimated 76,000 public sector and 59,000 private sector employees will work within Putrajaya.