

# Putrajaya's architectural epitome of beauty

**By Francis C Nantha**  
**Picture by**  
**Hamsiah Abu Bakar**

COUNTDOWN TO THE FUTURE... A mosque on a clear lake will be one of the main features of the new Federal Government administrative centre in Putrajaya, just outside Kuala Lumpur.

Another architectural wonder will be a flag tower in abstract design surrounded by fountains.

This model of the 4,400ha "Garden City" project will be unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow, together with 11 other exhibits highlighting various aspects of the development.

The Press were given a preview of the launch yes-

terday. Seen at the bottom right hand corner of this picture is a key to indicate the various types of trees to be planted in the city.

During the launch, the Prime Minister will also bury at the 15-metre stainless steel tower draped by Malaysian flag, designed by architect Hijjas Kasturi and which will serve as Putrajaya's landmark, a time capsule containing several documents on the new city.

These include the original masterplan, the agreement between Selangor and the Federal Government on the administration of Putrajaya, the Parliament Act setting up Perbadanan Putrajaya (Putrajaya Corporation) to administer the city and a corporate brochure on Putrajaya.

Costing RM20.09 billion, the whole development will comprise two parts — the core area and the neighbouring area.

The core area will be divided into five precincts — the Government, commercial, mixed, civic and cultural, and sports and recreation areas.

Surrounding it will be the housing, social facilities and business areas.

About 52,000 houses will be built, comprising 17,500 units for government staff, 17,500 for sale to civil servants and the rest for sale to the public.

Earthworks for Putrajaya, named in honour of Bapa Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, began last month. Construction works are expected to begin

by year's end and are expected to be completed in 10 years.

It will be carried out in two phases. The first phase (1995-2000) involves 2,543ha, comprising the building of office space for the Prime Minister's Department and Finance Ministry and agencies which do not now have their own buildings.

The second phase (2000-2008), covering 1,847ha, will be for agencies which currently have their own buildings.

The garden city, set amidst rolling hills with a panoramic view, will eventually have a stadium, a 78-metre Central Boulevard, man-made lakes, watersport complex, ferries and tramways.

Once completed, the Cen-

tral Boulevard will 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, will be plied by ferries.

An express rail service will link Putrajaya, which is about 30 minutes' drive from Kuala Lumpur, to the present capital and the KL International Airport. The Light Rail Transit system will have stations linking the main nodes within the core area and be complemented by public buses and taxis. Ferry services will also ply the lakeshore districts.

(Note: Part of a legend identifying the various structures can be seen at the bottom right of the picture.)