

09/10/1997

Dr M: We only develop practical projects

Kamarul Yunus

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia is not interested in building monuments or putting up sculptures and other symbols to reflect its success.

Rather, it will only undertake projects that are practical, he said when launching Putrajaya, the new RM24 billion administrative capital, in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Putrajaya, Dr Mahathir added, is an example of a practical project.

However, some people are jealous of the project. "This is inevitable as Putrajaya, which we are building ourselves, will become a city of the future," he said, adding that its launch clearly shows that not all projects in the country have been suspended.

The Prime Minister also said Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd and its partners - Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd, Peremba, SP Setia, Hong Leong Properties and Malaysian Plantations - are confident that the project will not be affected by the currency and stock market turmoil.

"In fact, they are determined to ensure its success."

Malaysia may be poorer financially due to recent developments in the currency and stock markets but the country has emerged stronger in terms of determination of its people, he said.

"I am happy that Malaysia has once again emerged stronger after facing an economic crisis ... we may have become poorer financially, but at the same time ... (the strength) can be seen everywhere and reflected in those who are proud to be Malaysians."

This strong determination has brought the country to where it is today with Malaysians being able to stand tall and prove to the world that their country is founded on substance, he added.

Conceived as an intelligent garden city, Putrajaya, located 25km from Kuala Lumpur, is to be developed within the Multimedia Super Corridor which also incorporates the world's first multimedia city, Cyberjaya.

Covering 4,581ha, Putrajaya comprises 20 precincts. These include zones designated for the Government, civic and cultural activities, commerce, sports and recreational activities, and mixed development.

The Prime Minister's Department and Dr Mahathir's official residence, built under phase one of the project, will be completed by October next year.

The Prime Minister said Putrajaya will reflect Malaysia's aspirations and become a landmark to showcase the country's capability in township development.

"At Putrajaya, the world will get to see the successful symbiosis of mankind, nature and technology."

The new administrative capital, he said, will be the hub of the electronic government which will place Malaysia in the frontline of the information technology era. At the same time, it will be a city where people can appreciate the beauty and tranquility of the natural environment.

Dr Mahathir said many cities have developed too fast, resulting in "sacrifices" having to be made in the name of development.

"At Putrajaya, we will change all this. It will be a brand new, carefully planned city. Priority will be on achieving harmony among mankind, nature and technology."

(END)

