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Mahathir-Putrajaya

I AM PROUD WITH DETERMINED MALAYSIANS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight he is proud with Malaysians for their strong determination to work hard and stay united in facing the current economic problems.

The Prime Minister said although the country was financially poorer now following the problems, the people had become richer in their determination.

He said the determination should be nurtured to attain success because it was something that the country had instilled among the people over the past 40 years as a result of which the people could hold their heads high.

This also enabled Malaysia to prove to the world that the country was built based on substance, he said when launching the Putrajaya new federal administrative capital, at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Putrajaya, located on a 4,581ha site about 25 km from Kuala Lumpur, is within the Multimedia Super Corridor which also incorporates the world's first intelligent city, Cyberjaya.

It is developed by Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd together with Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd, Peremba Bhd, SP Setia Bhd, Hong Leong Properties Bhd and Malaysian Plantations Bhd.

"This stronger determination is not confined to those involved in developing Putrajaya, but can be seen everywhere and is exhibited by all those who are proud of being Malaysians," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Putrajaya's launching was significant in the wake of questions raised of late as to whether the government would proceed with project.

"The launching of this city sends a clear message that not all projects in Malaysia are frozen, what more the new federal government administrative centre," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that the project would not be affected by the attack on the ringgit and the stock market by speculators.

Dr Mahathir said the development of Putrajaya was testimony of Malaysia's success in putting up buildings that were practical and beneficial instead of erecting monuments, statues and symbols to depict the country's achievements.

Putrajaya, the first intelligent garden city, is poised to be the city of next millennium built by Malaysians themselves to the envy of certain parties, he said.

"It is truly Malaysian in character. Putrajaya will be a unique city built in the Malaysian spirit and for all Malaysians," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Putrajaya would serve as an electronic government centre that would take the country to the forefront of the information age, and at the same time be a city where the people could appreciate the beauty of the environment in peace.

He said Putrajaya could be developed with the best and latest information infrastructure to support the current, new and future technologies and which could be used in an electronic government surrounding.

This is to ensure that Malaysia will be in fast lane to benefit from the opportunities brought by the information age, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Putrajaya was meticulously planned from the outset to ensure that it would not face the problems experienced by other cities that developed too rapidly as a result of which men and nature could not exist

in harmony.

He said the advantage of Putrajaya was that the city was completely new, unlike some other city cities which had been rebuilt.

This did not mean, however, that its development was no less challenging as factors such as land and infrastructure used had to be carefully planned, he said.

Putrajaya is named in honour of the country's first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

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

BERNAMA

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