

12/03/1997

PM can move into Putrajaya next year

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be able to move into his new administrative centre in Putrajaya as early as September next year, instead of the year 2000 as earlier announced.

Other offices in the Prime Minister's Department as well as those of the Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Secretary to the Government will also be ready then.

Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd general manager (business planning) Shahrir Shariff said today that the offices had been divided into two parcels.

"Parcel A with a built-up area of 750,000 square feet will contain the offices of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Secretary to the Government.

"Parcel B with a built-up area of 1.5 million square feet will house the Economic Planning Unit and other offices in the Prime Minister's Department," he told delegates of the US-Asean Business Leaders Mission as part of a briefing on Malaysia's electronic future.

Construction on the site in Sepang began in November last year, he said, adding that other Government offices were to be completed by the year 2000.

In addition to its ministries, Shahrir said the Government was also discussing the shifting of embassies, chancellories and ambassadors' residences into Putrajaya as well.

The Works and International Trade and Industries ministries are expected to remain in Kuala Lumpur.

Shahrir said much of the land earmarked for Putrajaya had been parceled out and would be developed through privatisation.

Its master plan unveiled in April 1994 revealed that Malaysia's "first intelligent garden city" will be divided into 20 precincts, a quarter of which form the five core areas of Government, Commercial, Mixed Development, Civic and Cultural, and Sports and Recreational precincts.

Other components expected to be ready by the end of 1998 include the Government offices and ministries, the Prime Minister's residence, Putra Bridge and a dedicated highway linking it to Cyberjaya, Malaysia's second intelligent city designated for companies part of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

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