

12/06/1997

Sri Perdana to be converted into gallery

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Prime Minister's official residence Sri Perdana is to be converted into a gallery housing, among other things, the many gifts and souvenirs received by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said the Cabinet today approved a proposal by the Ministry to set up the gallery which is an extension to the existing Galeria Perdana in Pulau Langkawi.

The Cabinet also approved the use of the Prime Minister's Department complex for three projects - monument of the country's chief executives, a Prime Minister's institute and a library.

He said all these projects, estimated to cost RM30 million, would take place after the Prime Minister's official residence and Prime Minister's Department were relocated to Putrajaya.

He said the Cabinet's decision would ensure the preservation of Sri Perdana in view of its historical value for future generations.

"The Cabinet has agreed with our proposal which means no other development can take place there," he told a Press conference at his Ministry.

Sabbaruddin said the Cabinet also agreed on the establishment of a body to raise public funds to support the project in recognition of the contributions by the Prime Minister.

On why the proposal was approved when Sri Perdana and the Prime Minister's Department had yet to move out, Sabbaruddin said this would ensure the places were not earmarked for other projects.

This will facilitate the development of Sri Perdana into a historical monument, he said, adding that there was also a suggestion to establish the Galeria Perdana at Labuan.

Asked about his meeting with the rap group KRU which is appealing to the Government to remove the ban imposed by several State Governments on the Krumania Mega Concert 97, Sabbaruddin said the group had sought the meeting to resolve the problem.

"The Government is sensitive especially if it touches on the livelihood of Malaysians including musicians, but we have to consider the interests of the public as a whole.

"For instance if the group is performing at an area located near a place of worship, it should delay the performance until after prayers were over," he said.

Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had asked Sabbaruddin to meet the rap group to discuss the ban imposed by the Kedah, Perlis and Selangor State Governments.

This followed concerns over the negative effects the concert will have on youths.

(END)