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Putrajaya: PM's residence part of official complex

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd today clarified that the official residence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was part of the official residence complex being built in Putrajaya.

In a statement, Putrajaya Holdings corporate affairs general manager Hamdan Ahammu said the Prime Minister's official residence, which was the first part of the complex, cost RM17.5 million to build.

He said the official residence had been built for posterity and was in accordance with the dignity of the office of the Prime Minister.

The second component of the complex, Hamdan said, consisted of facilities to be used by the Prime Minister in his official capacity and cost RM57.5 million.

The facilities to be used for the Prime Minister's official functions and in conjunction with his state duties include a banquet hall, Press room, meeting rooms and facilities for visiting dignitaries.

Hamdan was responding to statements made to reporters by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the dock at the High Court yesterday during a short adjournment of his trial.

Anwar was reported to have said that it was disgraceful for the Dewan Rakyat to be told that the Prime Minister's official residence in Putrajaya cost only RM17 million.

Anwar had also said the "mansion" was bigger than the King's palace and cost almost RM200 million.

On Oct 22, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman had informed the Dewan Rakyat that the actual cost of building the Prime Minister's official residence was RM17.5 million.

The point was raised by Pas' Member of Parliament for Tumpat, Wan Mohd Jamin Wan Mahmood, who said Anwar, the former Deputy Prime Minister, had claimed it cost RM200 million in a cassette recording.

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