

20 JUL 1999

Mahathir-Capital

KUALA LUMPUR REMAINS AS MALAYSIA'S CAPITAL, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JITRA, July 20 (Bernama) -- Kuala Lumpur will remain as the capital of Malaysia while Putrajaya will be part of the federal capital, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Kuala Lumpur would be the commercial capital and Putrajaya, the administrative capital.

He said this when asked to comment on his speech this morning that Putrajaya would be the new federal capital one day.

Replying in a question at a news conference at the end of his two-day visit of Kedah, Dr Mahathir said: "We will not change, this (Kuala Lumpur) is the commercial capital while that (Putrajaya) is the administrative capital.

"It (Putrajaya) is part of the capital. It is a town specially created as the country's administrative centre. It is not squatting on another town. We don't deny Kuala Lumpur's role.

"Kuala Lumpur grew as a mining village and later the British chose Kuala Lumpur as the capital. It's not really our choice, not the choice of Malaysians or the Malay rulers," he said.

Having a commercial and an administrative capital was also practised in other countries, he said.

He cited as examples the United States whose commercial capital is New York while its administrative capital and Australia with Melbourne and Sydney as its commercial capitals and Canberra as its administrative capital.

-- BERNAMA

TM ZKS JK