

09/04/1999

PM's residence: Assurance on use of local materials

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not stay at his official residence in Putrajaya if the building material used was 100 per cent imported.

Dr Mahathir would also ensure that at least 70 per cent of the material used was local, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob told Wan Mohd Jamin Wan Mahmood (Pas-Tumpat).

To a related question, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali said the Putrajaya development project, including the construction of the Prime Minister's official residence, alleviated the economic slowdown, especially in reviving the construction sector.

He denied that there was confusion on the construction cost of the residential and public facilities.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (Independent-Permatang Pauh) had asked for reasons why the construction of the Prime Minister's official residence was on-going despite the country's financial situation.

In a written reply, Ibrahim said construction proceeded as it was the permanent official residence of the Prime Minister.

The official residence would include a banquet hall, Press room, meeting room and facilities for official visitors.

Elaborating to reporters later, Ibrahim said the Prime Minister's residence had an official status.

"It would be the pride of the nation," he said. "It is not to be used by Dr Mahathir alone."

(END)