

16 JUN 1999

Mahathir-Buildings

VACANT GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS TO BE SOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Government office buildings vacated by ministries and departments in their shift to the Putrajaya new administrative centre will be sold, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The sale revenues would be used to part finance the construction of Putrajaya, the Prime Minister told reporters after chairing the last Cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Department (JPM), Bukit Perdana in Jalan Dato' Onn here.

The JPM would shift from Monday to its new office in Block A, Federal Government Administrative Centre, Putrajaya. Bukit Perdana has been the Malaysian government's centre of administration for almost 42 years.

On the JPM main office block in Bukit Perdana which housed the office of the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir said there had been proposals to turn it into a museum.

"There are such proposals as it has been the office of the Prime Minister since the time of Tunku Abdul Rahman (the first Malaysian PM), so a lot on the history of Malaysia's independence is connected to this building.

"I hope only this building is turned into a museum as to turn the other government offices too into museums would be very costly. We want to sell off some to part finance the construction of Putrajaya," he said.

Civil servants in the JPM's Implementation and Coordination Unit and National Security Division as well as the office of the Chief Secretary to the Government were the first batch to start work in Putrajaya.

The shift by the various ministries and Federal government departments to Putrajaya will be done in stages according to the completion of the specific buildings to house them.

The shift is expected to be fully completed by year 2005 when 15,000 residential units are completed to accommodate the civil servants.

Putrajaya, on a 7,000ha site, is 40km from Kuala Lumpur and is a component of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

It is the backbone in the formation of an electronic government to improve the quality of service to the people.

-- BERNAMA

NHD THG