

PM: Development of Putrajaya proof of an independent Malaysia

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PUTRAJAYA, Sat. — The development of the Federal administrative centre of Putrajaya is proof of an independent Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

With its unique architecture incorporating local and Islamic designs, the Prime Minister said the township was a reflection of the country's identity.

"Many buildings in the country have colonial-style architecture as they were constructed before independence. But we have achieved independence now, so we want our cities to reflect our own identity," he said at the Prime Minister's

Department's first anniversary celebration marking its relocation from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya.

Dr Mahathir said foreign visitors to Putrajaya would be able to view for themselves the identity of Malaysia from the various development aspects of the township.

"I am sure tourists can discern our identity from a visit here. We want people to know this is Malaysia, this is Malaysian identity.

"I hope this place will become the country's pride and also the landmark of an independent nation."

The department started operating here on June 21 last year with the first Cabinet meeting held two

days later.

Dr Mahathir said while other countries took decades to build their federal administrative centre, Malaysia took only three years.

Among those present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

Among the events held to mark the anniversary were a fishing competition, a children's drawing competition and Larian Putra which attracted the participation of more than 500 staff of the Prime Minister's Department.