

# Almost full attendance as Putrajaya bill is approved

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The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 seeking to amend the federal constitution to enable the Federal Territory of Putrajaya to be established was approved.

The establishment of the third Federal Territory will see, among other things, an additional state and parliamentary seat, in addition to a change in the Selangor state border.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who tabled the bill for second reading, said the act shall come into operation on Feb 1, 2001.

He said the federal and Selangor governments had signed an agreement on July 20, 1995, for the latter to hand over a 10,000-acre area in Sepang district as a new administrative centre for the Federal government, for an indefinite period.

"The agreement also said the state government had presented the federal government with the executive powers to administer Putrajaya," he said.

Nevertheless, the bill states the existing laws would remain under the state despite the establishment of Putrajaya Inc under the Putrajaya Incorporated Act 1995 to carry out the Putrajaya administration on behalf of the federal government.

"After five years, it is time for Putrajaya to be made a Federal Territory with a physical border, proper legislation, and administration," Mahathir said.

He said since the establishment of Federal Territory of Putrajaya, parliament must enact the law under Article 2 of the Federal Constitution.

"Nevertheless, such a law cannot be approved by par-

liament without the agreement of the Selangor government, through the state legislative body and agreed to by the Rulers Council," said Mahathir.

He said the draft for Federal Territory of Putrajaya Bill 2000 pertaining to the change of border has been consented to by the Rulers Council.

The Selangor state assembly had also passed the Federal Territory of Putrajaya Bill 2000 on Nov 16.

The bill became an enactment after consent was given by the Regent of Selangor on Nov 27, and the enactment was published in the Selangor State Government Gazette on Nov 30.

He said an amendment to Article 45 would enable a state assemblyman to be elected while article 46 allows for an MP to represent the Federal Territory of Putrajaya.

The bill was passed after more than two-thirds of the MPs present voted for it.

The House saw an almost full attendance during the debate.