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Abdullah-Putrajaya

PUTRAJAYA TO BECOME FEDERAL TERRITORY

PETALING JAYA, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Putrajaya will be made a Federal Territory soon, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said the cabinet, at its meeting yesterday, agreed with the proposal to make Putrajaya a Federal Territory.

Abdullah told reporters this at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang after sending off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who left for Seoul to attend the Asia-Eropah Meeting (Asem).

Asked when the declaration would be made, Abdullah said soon.

He said the move to make Putrajaya a Federal Territory took into account its rapid development and its status as the government's administrative centre.

Putrajaya will become the third Federal Territory in the country, after Kuala Lumpur and Labuan.

To another question, Abdullah said that because a lot more development would be carried out in Putrajaya, it would be better to have it administered by the federal government.

Asked if the declaration of Putrajaya as a Federal Territory would be made this year, he said: "When everything (negotiations between the federal and the Selangor governments) is settled, we will announce it. It will not take long,"

He also said that Putrajaya was suitable to be made a Federal Territory in view that it was the federal administrative centre while Kuala Lumpur would be the commercial centre.

"Now Kuala Lumpur is the capital. So the merger of the two is important. As such, it is better for Putrajaya to be administered under the federal government," he said.

The federal administrative centre was opened in the middle of last year when the Prime Minister's office in Jalan Datuk Onn in Kuala Lumpur shifted to Putrajaya.

When fully developed, Putrajaya is expected to have 350,000 population and 67,000 housing units of various types.

-- BERNAMA

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