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Residents within MSC benefit the most from its developments

BANGI, Wed. - Residents living within the Multimedia Super Corridor are fortunate because they will benefit the most from its development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the value of their land had soared, their townships were planned and the MSC would become a mega city in 100 years.

In 15 years, Putrajaya is expected to have 300,000 residents and the MSC a total of 2.5 million.

Dr Mahathir added that Selangor, which is home to the country's capital and MSC, will reach developed status by 2005, well ahead of the rest of the country.

He said when the Government was planning the MSC, many States were very keen to have it and the country's new administrative centre (Putrajaya) within their boundaries.

"We first planned to have Putrajaya in Janda Baik in Pahang. The Pahang Government was very happy," he said when launching the publicity campaign for the five local plans for the MSC.

The launch was attended by residents living within the areas of the local plans which cover the outer flagship areas of Cyberjaya, tele-suburb of Sg Merab, Cyber Village of Dengkil, Airport City of Salak Tinggi and outskirts of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang.

Dr Mahathir said the Government decided against Janda Baik as it wanted the new administrative centre to be close to the KLIA in Selangor.

He said Sepang was once the most backward area in Selangor until the Government bought the former Perang Besar estate and turned it into Putrajaya.

Then, the Government decided to build Cyberjaya, the hub of the MSC, next to Putrajaya. The value of land quickly shot up tremendously and those who owned land became rich.

The Prime Minister also gave the example of Langkawi, a duty-free resort island. He said from an island with 16,000 poor inhabitants, it suddenly boomed when business and investment opportunities were created.

"Many Langkawi residents are now millionaires," he said, adding that one square foot of land now cost RM10 while some 20 years ago, 20,000 square feet only cost RM500.

He said Sepang residents were even more fortunate because they were going to live in a planned township and they have been asked for their feedback.

The local plans will be on display from Nov 3-30 at the Sepang District Council and residents can file in objections.

"But the objections must be reasonable, not merely to stop development or to get higher compensation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would consider changing the plans only if the people would really suffer some loss.

Speaking to reporters later, he said he does not expect many objections as the plans were very comprehensive and well done.

"The people have a chance to object or propose anything but they should be reasonable. Don't say, I don't like development, move KLIA to Alor Star!"

"It will grow in a planned manner. We don't want someone to put up a 70-storey building just anywhere. But the plan is not rigid. If necessary, we will amend," he said.

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