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Selangor to discuss new FT proposal

M. Sahibullah

SHAH ALAM, Sat. - The Federal Government's proposal to make Putrajaya a Federal Territory will be discussed and decided at a special Selangor Executive Council meeting to be convened early next month.

Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo said today he would, at the meeting, explain the rationale and implications of the proposal and its benefits to Selangor.

"They will get a clearer picture of the proposal after the meeting," he told reporters after witnessing the launching of the Malaysian Environment Week by Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here.

Dr Mohamad Khir gave the assurance that whatever decision made at the meeting would be "for the good of Selangor".

State Committee chairman for Infrastructure, Information and Information Technology Datuk Mohd Sharif Jajang, who is also the State Assemblyman for Dengkil, told reporters today that his constituency would have to be "realigned" if Putrajaya became a Federal Territory.

He said this was because Putrajaya, which covered an area of about 48,000 hectares, accounted for about 20 per cent of the total area of the Dengkil State constituency. At present, Mohd Sharif said, he was "still in the dark" about the matter.

Nevertheless, he hailed the proposal to make Putrajaya the Federal Territory, saying that its proximity to Selangor would obviously benefit Selangor in terms of development, job opportunities and increasing the value of real estate near the area.

Mohd Sharif also described the move as "very relevant" as the country's new administrative centre should rightly be a Federal Territory, instead of being in Selangor.

"After all, it will not be proper that the nation's new administrative centre should be under State Government rule and administration."

However, he said both the Federal and Selangor Governments must explain the situation to the people so that they would understand the rationale and benefits for the move and also to prevent the matter from being manipulated by opposition parties.

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