

Keep greenery, developers told

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Dr M: Take Putrajaya as an example

By **SUSAN TAM**

PUTRAJAYA: Property developers should not destroy all greenery to develop townships or new residential areas but preserve it and create a good environment with proper planning, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"Developers should take Putrajaya as an example as it has created a wetlands park for the preservation of the environment despite having development around it," he said in his speech at the opening of the park.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that buyers would not mind paying a higher price

for properties if the developer conserved the environment by building nature parks.

"The selling price of property in such areas will increase because of the natural and beautiful environment."

He said projects would more be attractive if developers maintained green areas.

In the case of the wetlands park, he said it was artificially created, acting as a filtering system for Putra Lake.

He said Putrajaya was not only a tourist attraction but also a resource for Malaysians to learn about the flora and fauna at the wetlands, which is the largest man-made wetlands in the region.

Dr Mahathir officially

opened the park by releasing 100 birds and at least 1,500 species of butterflies.

Later he also flagged off 500 participants of the Wetland Discovery Hunt.

Putrajaya Holdings chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin said the wetlands was the first of its kind in the country.

"The 136ha park houses trees of special species that are able to filter the chemical content of the water flowing towards Putra Lake," he said.

Planning, Landscape and Environment deputy director Shahoran Johan Ariffin said there were 24 "cells" or ponds for filtration purposes located in the park.