

# Putrajaya becomes FT on Feb 1

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PUTRAJAYA: Putrajaya will be officially declared a Federal Territory by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday.

The Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, said the new Federal Territory would have its own flag which would be raised for the first time at Dataran Perdana on Thursday.

Putrajaya is the third federal territory after Kuala Lumpur and Labuan.

"There will be some celebrations to mark the inauguration of Putrajaya as a Federal Territory," he said here.

Among the events lined up are a kite-flying contest besides kayak, dragonboat and traditional sampan displays.

Abdul Halim was entrusted by the Federal Government in the negotiations with Selangor to turn Putrajaya into a federal territory.

The Federal Government acquired 4,391ha of land from the state government.

In an agreement signed in November, Selangor would receive RM200mil in cash besides RM7.5mil a year for an

indefinite period.

Abdul Halim said Putrajaya would have its own local authority now that the federal administrative capital would no longer be under Selangor.

"For the time being, the president of the Putrajaya Corporation will be head of the local authority.

"It will be up to the Government to decide whether a mayor should be appointed later on," he added.

The corporation, set up to administer and manage Putrajaya on behalf of the Federal Government, is now headed by Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Arifin.

Asked whether Putrajaya would be allocated additional budget, Abdul Halim replied:

"There is already a budget for Putrajaya. But there needs to be some modifications to the Putrajaya set-up, including having a separate Land Office."

The Dewan Rakyat passed the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 last month which, among others, enables a member of the Senate to be appointed and a member of the Dewan Rakyat to be elected to represent the Federal Territory of Putrajaya.