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Elaborate programme to mark new status for Putrajaya

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Come Thursday, Putrajaya will be officially declared a Federal Territory.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make the declaration followed by the hoisting of the new FT flag at Dataran Perdana in Putrajaya.

Cabinet Ministers, VIPs, invited guests, heads of government departments and foreign diplomats are expected to witness the historic event.

Putrajaya will be the third Federal Territory after Kuala Lumpur and Labuan.

To mark the auspicious occasion, Perbadanan Putrajaya will be holding an elaborate programme to attract some 10,000 people to Putrajaya on Thursday and Friday.

Perbadanan Putrajaya city development director-cum-organising committee chairman for the FT declaration, Datuk Othman Zainal Azim, said the series of programmes Thursday scheduled to begin at 10am would be held at Tasik Putrajaya and Dataran Putra in Putrajaya.

The events will commence with three uniformed bodies - the air force, police and fire and rescue department helicopter unit staging its helicopter fly-past.

Othman said this would be followed by the kite show by the Kite Association.

"There will be Malaysian, States and modern kite shows which is expected to draw enthusiasts to Putrajaya. We are also having 45 kayak shows - 15 single seaters and 30 double seaters," he added.

"The skate board and BMX bicycle demonstrations by professionals are among other highlights which are expected to attract the youngsters."

The second day of the celebration will commence with Dr Mahathir opening the Taman Wetland in conjunction with the World Wetland Day.

The 160ha-man-made Putrajaya Wetlands is said to be the first of its kind in the country and one of the largest fully constructed freshwater wetlands in the tropics.

In conjunction with the opening, Othman said there would be a "Wetland Discovery Hunt" and Suara Burung Merbok competition.

The closing ceremony is scheduled at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Putrajaya 1 field at 8.30pm with cultural performances by the Petronas Art Group, Dama House and Temple of Fine Arts.

Othman said there would also be performances by the nasyid group Raihan, Siti Nurhaliza and the finale would be a fireworks display.

A photography competition opened only to media and magazine photographers in the country is also in the programme.

Interested photographers can submit photos taken during the two-day celebration at Putrajaya.

The winner will win RM3,000 while the first and second runners-up RM2,000 and RM1,000 respectively. There will also be five consolation prizes of RM500 each.

Application forms can be obtained at Photography Competition Secretariat, Perbadanan Putrajaya.

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