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Mahathir-Developers

MAKE PUTRAJAYA MODEL FOR URBANISATION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked developers to emulate Putrajaya's township and residential development without having to cut hillslopes and bulldoze away away green belts merely to maximise profits.

"Perhaps they may squeeze as many buildings as possible on cut slopes but the unattractive areas surrounding the buildings will not entice property buyers.

"However if they develop their project like Putrajaya, I am convinced the sale price for the units will not discourage property buyers," Dr Mahathir said when opening Putrajaya's Wetlands Park here today.

Yesterday the prime minister officially declared Putrajaya, formerly a rubber and oil palm plantation, as the country's third Federal Territory after Kuala Lumpur and Labuan.

He invited developers and the common folk alike to tour Putrajaya, the new federal administrative capital and its Wetlands Park to see for themselves that not only the environment is preserved but also a fascinating environment being created.

He said Putrajaya was not only for people to come and enjoy but also to learn about the flora and fauna of wetlands and how one could preserve the environment.

By way of example, Dr Mahathir said Taman Wetlands Putrajaya which previously had only a two-metre drain now had a lake, and so developers could also create wetland parks in the areas which they developed.

"If there is a mining pool, do not fill it but beautify it in various ways," he said.

Scenic landscape was an asset to development as it could increase the price of the buildings in the particular area, he added.

On the Putrajaya Wetlands Park, Dr Mahathir said the Putrajaya Corporation had created a unique man-made lake, a first in the world.

In fact there were no wetlands in Putrajaya but only small drains but the corporation had come up with this unique idea to develop the place, he said.

He said the park was developed not only to enhance the scenic beauty of the area but also to purify the water flowing into the Putrajaya Lake.

Apart from the enchanting lake, the park could also attract bird and fish lovers, the Prime Minister said.

"There are birds which have flown in from Russianow Russia is no longer communist.....so we have no fear of the Russian birds," he joked.

The highlight of the park opening ceremony was the release of birds and some 1,500 butterflies of various sizes and colours by the Prime Minister.

The park is also the natural habitat of some 70 species of butterflies and also birds.

Earlier Dr Mahathir flagged off 500 students of public institutions of higher learning and members of youth clubs taking part in the Wetlands Discovery Hunt.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali also witnessed a bird singing contest.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia, new Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman and President of the Putrajaya Corporation Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin were among the dignitaries present.

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NZ ES AAM