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Our unique wetland park

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PUTRAJAYA, Fri. - Malaysia's first man-made wetland park, Taman Wetland Putrajaya, was officially opened today by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The launch was held in conjunction with World Wetlands Day.

The 136-hectare park is situated in Putrajaya Wetland, in the new Federal capital of Putrajaya.

The park houses a Nature Interpretation Centre, an 80-metre high look-out tower, two nature trails, a wetland plant nursery and picnic areas among others.

Putrajaya Wetland, said to be the largest man-made freshwater wetland in the tropics, was built in 1997 along the arms of the Sungai Chuau and Sungai Bisas in the former Prang Besar oil palm estate.

Spanning a 650ha area, the wetland comprises 24 wetland cells and functions as a flood-control and natural filter system for the Putrajaya Lake.

The main habitats at the Wetland are marshes, swamp forests and open water areas like ponds and lakes.

The wetland today is home to a variety of birds and aquatic animals. Several species of local marshland and water birds spotted here include the Little Egret, Little Green Heron and Cinnamon Bittern.

At today's launching ceremony, Dr Mahathir released 100 merbuk and 1,500 butterflies.

Among those present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding and Putrajaya Corporation president Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin.

Activities organised this morning in conjunction with the launch included the merbuk bird singing competition and the Wetland Discovery Hunt.

The bird competition saw some 350 entries and the hunt attracted some 500 participants.

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