

01 FEB 2001

Putrajaya-Declaration

PUTRAJAYA DECLARED FT IN BRIEF BUT MEANINGFUL CEREMONY

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad declared Putrajaya, formerly a part of Selangor, a Federal Territory in a brief but historic and meaningful ceremony at the Dataran Perdana here.

The ceremony began with a rendition of the National Anthem, Negara-ku, followed by the raising of the Jalur Gemilang and the Putrajaya flag.

The Prime Minister accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohd Khir Toyo and other dignitaries, signed the "plaque" commemorating the declaration.

Dr Mahathir then handed over the Putrajaya flag to the President of the Putrajaya Corporation Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin. The corporation is entrusted with the responsibility of developing, managing and administering Putrajaya on behalf of the Federal Government.

Among the dignitaries present were Ambassadors and High Commissioners of several countries and Members of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly.

The dignitaries then accompanied Dr Mahathir to witness several eye-catching events near the Putrajaya Mosque, held in conjunction with the declaration.

Among the events was a fly past by the air force and the Fire and Rescue Service Department helicopters.

Other events included a performance by Kelantan kite flying experts and traditional and dragon boat rowing competition and canoing in the Putrajaya Lake.

Putrajaya covers 4,581 hectares of the former Prang Besar Rubber and Oil Palm Estate. It is 25km south of Kuala Lumpur and 20km north of the KL International Airport in Sepang.

-- BERNAMA

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