

Putrajaya to have its own MP

By SA'ODAH ELIAS STAR - 2 FEB 2002

PUTRAJAYA: The Federal Territory of Putrajaya will be represented by a Member of Parliament after the next general election.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the the Federal Government's administrative centre might have more MPs if its population exceeds 350,000.

The current population in Putrajaya is 20,000.

There was also a possibility that a mayor might be appointed later, Dr Mahathir told reporters after launching the first anniversary of Federal Territory Day celebrations for Putrajaya yesterday.

On Putrajaya's future plans, the Prime Minister said that although Putrajaya was still developing, it had emerged as one of the biggest engineering feats in the country.

"We should be proud because everything from the designing to architecture was by locals," he said.

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Putrajaya set to be a major tourist draw, says Dr Mahathir

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He also expressed hope that the international convention centre which was still under construction could be completed before the hosting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting next year.

Other major projects still under way, he said, included the construction of a four-kilometre-long boulevard linking Putra Mosque to the convention centre, the Treasury building and the Palace of Justice.

He said, when completed, Putrajaya would also boast a seven kilometre-long lake, the biggest man-made lake in any world capital.

Asked if he was satisfied with the culture of maintenance of buildings in Putrajaya, Dr Mahathir said it could have been better.

He also expressed confidence that Putrajaya would soon become a major tourist attraction in the country.

The unique architecture incorporated in the development of Putrajaya, he said, was a factor that could turn it into a tourist destination in the country's tourism calendar.

Putrajaya Corporation president Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin, in his speech said to date, six ministries including 19 departments and agencies had moved to Putrajaya.

He said according to the relocation plan, all ministries, government departments and agencies would be expected to move here by the end of 2005.

Azizan said that 5,295 residential units had been completed while another 10,736 units were being built.