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PM opens embassy building in Berlin

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the new building of the Malaysian embassy at Klingelhoferstr 6 on Tuesday, declaring it as Malaysia's modest contribution to the architecture of new Berlin.

At the same time, he called on foreign missions in Malaysia to start relocating their embassies to the new federal administrative centre in Putrajaya.

When Germany moved its capital from Bonn to Berlin, he said foreign embassies did not face difficulties relocating their missions.

As such, the Prime Minister felt the same should also be seen in the case of Putrajaya.

On Berlin, Dr Mahathir said it had hardly been two years since the German capital had moved but the city appeared very comfortable in its role as the seat of the Federal Government.

"In the space of less than two years, Berlin has also won the acceptance not merely of the German people but of the whole world as the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany."

Among those present at the opening were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Malaysian Ambassador to Germany Datuk Kadir Deen.

Dr Mahathir, who last visited Berlin in 1988, said he was happy to see a new and vibrant city.

"When I was last in Berlin in 1988, the wall had not yet been dismantled. The Berlin Wall, as it was known to the world, stood as an ominous reminder that not merely was Berlin divided but Germany too, physically and ideologically."

Dr Mahathir said signs of renewal and hope was obvious everywhere, from the construction of modern new buildings like those in the Potsdameplatz to the restoration of the splendid old buildings along the Unter Den Linden and elsewhere in the city.

"The museums, opera houses, concert halls and the theatres of Berlin distinguish the city as a cultural metropolis."

The Prime Minister said it was clear that Germany today was profoundly committed to a prosperous, just and stable world, with a major role to play in Europe and the world at large.

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