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Mahathir-Putrajaya
MP FOR PUTRAJAYA AFTER THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Putrajaya will be represented by a Member of Parliament after the next general election.

"There will be one MP initially. But when the population reaches 350,000, that's the maximum. There need to be another MP," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the first anniversary celebrations of the Federal Territory of Putrajaya and the Souq (bazaar) here.

Dr Mahathir said that he expects the population of Putrajaya to be around 350,000 in future.

Asked whether Putrajaya will have a mayor, he said that there is a possibility that a Datuk Bandar would be appointed when its population becomes larger.

On Putrajaya's future plans, the prime minister said that Putrajaya was still developing and hoped that the international convention centre being constructed there would be completed for the hosting of the conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) next year.

He also said that a four-kilometre boulevard from the Putra Mosque to the convention centre and various other projects including the Treasury building and the Palace of Justice were underway.

"I always go around watching work in progress. I think this is one of the biggest engineering feat by Malaysians. They are the ones who design the city and implement it, only that not many of the workers are Malays," he said.

Asked on the culture of maintenance in Putrajaya, the prime minister said that he was still not satisfied but from what he had already seen, it is a lot better than in other places.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said that the government was certainly proud and satisfied over the progress of the development of Putrajaya because in the initial stages of its development, the country was facing an economic crisis and political uncertainties as well as lies and allegations of certain quarters.

"We are confident of the capability of all the contractors, developers and also administrators appointed to further develop Putrajaya," he said.

The unique architecture incorporated in the development of Putrajaya is a factor to be promoted among tourists to turn Putrajaya into a tourist destination in the country's tourism calendar besides being the federal government's administrative centre.

Meanwhile, Putrajaya Corporation president Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin, in his speech, said that the construction of government offices at Putrajaya was underway.

He said that so far, 10,108,248 sq ft of office space was ready while another 16,284,785 sq ft was under construction.

"As at the end of last month, six ministries including 19 departments and agencies under the ministries have moved to Putrajaya and according to schedule of plans which has been expedited, all the ministries moving to Putrajaya will have done so by the end of 2005," he said.

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

At present, the population of Putrajaya is 20,000.

He said that by the end of 2005, the number of residential units would

have reached 35,957 and the number of residents was expected to reach 160,000.

-- BERNAMA
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