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Abdullah-Putrajaya

DEVELOPMENT OF PUTRAJAYA WILL NOT BE SLOWED DOWN

PUTRAJAYA, May 5 (Bernama) -- The development of Putrajaya as a federal administrative centre will not be slowed down due to the present economic uncertainties brought on by the global fallout from the war in Iraq and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"There is no plan to slow down or postpone work on Putrajaya as it was built for the future," the deputy prime minister said after launching "Alamanda," Putrajaya's first shopping centre at Precinct 1 here.

Alamanda, which is scheduled to open in June 2004, has attracted Carrefour as its anchor tenant.

Abdullah said development of the administrative capital "is going on as scheduled" so that all the facilities could be completed as targeted.

He said it was not worthwhile to reschedule the development of Putrajaya according "to the ups and downs of the economy."

"If we wait for the economy to improve, it might decline further when we complete the project," he said.

Based on reports, the development cost of Putrajaya is estimated at RM3.2 billion.

Abdullah also said that infrastructural development in Putrajaya would be good for the construction industry as this would spur demand for building materials and stimulate activities in related industries.

Putrajaya, sprawling over 4,931 hectares, is located just 25km south of Kuala Lumpur and 20km north of the KL International airport

The first two phases of the three-phase project have been completed and the ongoing last phase will be completed by 2010.

It is also Malaysia's first intelligent city in a garden, a city that symbolises Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision for the nation's future.

It has been named after the nation's first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

The decision to relocate the federal government administrative centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya was aimed at easing the pressure on the infrastructure in Kuala Lumpur and setting up a new administrative centre equipped with the latest facilities for improved effectiveness and productivity.

Abdullah also dismissed notions that Putrajaya was for the elite.

He said the administrative capital, which would boast of modern state-of-the-art comfortable living facilities, would cater for people working in Putrajaya as well as for retirees or traders in the area.

-- BERNAMA

MAD MR/MKO SHY JK