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Mahathir-Putrajaya

DR MAHATHIR WANTS THE PEOPLE TO LOVE, LOOK AFTER PUTRAJAYA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Malaysians to appreciate, love and look after Putrajaya so that it remains an administrative capital that they can be proud of.

The prime minister said that although Putrajaya was built less than a decade ago, in 1996, it was now a reality, beautiful and prominent as the nation's administrative centre.

"We see how beautiful the capitals of other countries are. We cannot make our capital like London or Paris but we can be proud of Putrajaya," he said when launching the Putrajaya Lake Cruise and Millenium Monument here.

"I think we won't be embarrassed to promote Putrajaya to foreign visitors. We're not showing off, but to a certain extent we have achieved progress," he said.

Dr Mahathir said many of the developments here were the first of their kind in the country and many of the buildings were of new design.

"They were also built in such a short time, like this monument on which construction started nine months ago but is already completed with gardens and all," he said.

Regarding this as a record, he said it showed that Malaysians could not only make beautiful drawings and designs but implement them quickly as well, he said.

"Putrajaya belongs to Malaysians and they should regard it as their own," he said.

He said that the more than 13 gardens surrounding Putrajaya would serve as a green lung for the administrative capital and Kuala Lumpur.

The people of Kuala Lumpur who were always busy and stressed out could come to Putrajaya to relax, he added.

On the Putrajaya Lake Cruise and the Millennium Monument, he said these were two more steps forward in the development of the town.

He said the monument, which is in the shape of the Bunga Raya, the national flower, and has a 68m time polce, showcased the changes and the events in Malaysia since 1957 and would continue until 2020.

"I would like to thank everyone for giving the credit to me for all this things...but actually it is not me," Dr Mahathir said.

He said he was lucky to have officers who interpreted the government's directives so well that everything was so attractive and commendable.

"For example, when we (government) proposed to have a maritime and air show (Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition) in Langkawi, we actually wanted to display only small jets, private jets and trainer jets but the officers enlarged the exhibition until it became an international maritime and air show," he said.

The pime minister also praised Putrajaya Corporation led by its chairman, Tan Sri Aziznan Zainul Abidin, for successfully developing the town.

-- BERNAMA
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