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Putrajaya-City

PUTRAJAYA - PRIDE OF THE NATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- None would have expected the southern Prang Besar Estate in Selangor to be turned into a monumental national administrative centre.

On Aug 29, 1995, the project to convert the 4,931 hectares lush forest was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Prang Besar was then renamed Putrajaya in memory of Malaysia's first premier Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj for his priceless contribution to the nation.

Since it was declared a Federal Territory on Feb 1, 2001, it continued to develop and prosper as a modern city equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities.

Perched within the Multimedia Super Corridor, Putrajaya served as an ideal location for the employment, residential and recreational sectors -- providing a comfortable living environment.

However, it was long winding road for Putrajaya before it realised its current status as envisioned by the country's leaders to build an administrative centre to serve the nation.

The vision to turn Prang Besar plantation area into an administrative centre started after the cabinet approved to replace Kuala Lumpur in June 2, 1993.

In May 31, 1999, another history was created when the National Security Division and Implementation Coordination Unit under the Prime Minister's Department moved their operations to Putrajaya.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir officially started his duties in Putrajaya on June 21, 1999 and two days later the first cabinet meeting was held here.

Gradually the five main precincts were developed :

- * Government Precinct for the Federal Government.
- * Mixed Development Precinct for commercial, government and parks.
- * Public Precinct for public and cultural usage (Putrajaya's main crest the Masjid Putra is located here).
- * Commercial Precinct for shopping facilities.
- * Sports Precinct for sports activities.

The entire project is being developed by the Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd, headed by Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin.

The "Garden City" is beautified by a variety of plants and flowers, and to protect the environment from air and noise pollution even the transportation mode is selected carefully.

The expanding township is well connected by bus services, LRT and major highways -- the South-Klang Valley Expressway, North-South Central Expressway, Puchong-Damansara Highway and Kuala Lumpur-Seremban Highway.

Although the project is expected to be fully completed within a span of 15 years, its rapid progress is already visible.

Although Putrajaya is only two years old, the young city has proven to be an efficient administrative base that is able to compete with other reputable centres in the world.

Administered by potential leaders, it is not impossible for Putrajaya to emerge as a major centre in the international arena in the coming years.

Dr Mahathir is expected to officiate its second anniversary celebration on Tuesday.

-- BERNAMA

SOP MAM VP

