

04/08/2003

PM confident there will be more than 15,000 voters in Putrajaya before

PUTRAJAYA, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight expressed confidence that there would be more than 15,000 voters in Putrajaya before the next general election.

He said to date, there were already more than 10,000 residents in the federal administrative capital and about 6,000 of them had registered as voters.

"I'm confident before the general election, more people will move here. The community is growing and we have sufficient houses."

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a Press conference after closing the twoday Putrajaya Carnival 2003 at Presinct 8.

Dr Mahathir said one of the reasons for the low voter registration in Putrajaya was the residents' reluctance to change their home addresses.

"It's the same in other areas too, actually they are not new voters but existing ones who prefer to maintain their old addresses.

"Even I am still registered in Anak Bukit (Kedah) although I live in Putrajaya...sometimes people are just fond of their old addresses," he added in jest.

Commenting on the carnival, Dr Mahathir, who conceptualised this landmark city, said it was not a "construction area" any more.

"It is already a city now, just like any other city.

"We were aware that for so long, those working here had a feeling of dwelling in a construction area...it was very quiet without much activities, but today we are witnessing an active society here," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the ability to hold such a mammoth two-day carnival, which attracted about 300,000 people, was proof that Putrajaya was "alive".

He also alluded to suggestions that such an event should be made an annual affair, adding that a more suitable area should be identified within the city.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk M. Kayveas, TV3 chief executive officer Datuk Ahmad Farid Ridzuan and executive director Abdul Rahman Ahmad.