

05/02/2003

Big shift to Putrajaya by early 2005

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - Putrajaya will house all government departments and ministries by early 2005 when the on-going development is completed, Putrajaya Corporation president Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin said today.

He said the development in the various precincts was on schedule, with the various federal government complexes either completed or nearing completion.

Speaking at the second anniversary of the Putrajaya Federal Territory Day and the opening of the Putrajaya Botanical Garden, Azizan said of the five parcels in Precinct 1, four had been developed and occupied while construction of offices for another 10 ministries in Precinct 2 to 4 was in the advanced stage.

"Under this project, work for the Finance Ministry has been completed and occupied while work on the remaining nine will be completed in the middle of next year," he said.

Azizan said the current population of 35,000 residents was expected to increase rapidly when Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd and its partners completed their housing projects.

Besides government office buildings and residential units, other projects included the Convention Centre, utility tunnel, monorail tunnel and works on facilities around the Putrajaya Lake.

"Several public facilities have also been completed, including two more primary and secondary schools," he said.

Azizan said Putrajaya was being developed into a garden city, with 37 per cent of its area allocated for parks and lakes.

The Putrajaya Botanical Garden is the biggest of such gardens in Malaysia. The 92-hectare garden has three components - flowers, ornamental plants and preservation/research component.

Azizan said there were also plans to set up an arboretum as a heritage for future generations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the FT Day celebrations and officially opened the botanical garden this morning. Also present was his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech at the function, congratulated Putrajaya Holdings for developing the city without compromising the environment.

He said other developers should emulate the ethics of not sacrificing the environment for physical development "While areas which were not affected by the development were left untouched, Putrajaya Holdings even took the initiative to plant new trees and plants to ensure that Putrajaya remains a balanced development," he said.

Dr Mahathir also expressed hope that the 4.5-kilometre boulevard stretching from the Prime Minister's Department to the Putrajaya Convention Centre would be completed before the next Merdeka Day celebrations.

"I hope our very own boulevard will be completed this year so that we can hold our National Day parade here.

"I believe it will be very impressive. I have seen the National Day parade in Paris along the Champs Elysees and it was very impressive," he said.

The Convention Centre is also the venue for the Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in October.