

Dr M opens facilities at Perdana Gardens

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has opened two facilities at the 131-year-old Perdana Botanical Gardens, making it a complete recreational park with elements of research, education and conservation.

The Prime Minister planted a *Kembang Semangkuk* sapling as a symbolic gesture of the opening of the Visitors Complex and Ethnobotany Park as the added attractions.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Dr Shahrudin Md Salleh and Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan, went on a tour of the facilities and was given a briefing on the transformation of the park that was opened in 1888.

The two facilities are the final elements of the second phase upgrading of the botanical gardens, which were completed last April.

The Visitors Complex houses a herbarium as a research centre, an interpretation centre as an information centre, a briefing room and a souvenir shop.

The Ethnobotany Park was developed as part of the conservation programme of the gardens and showcases over 100 species of trees, which have many uses, including food, medicine and beauty products.

When met by reporters, Nor Hisham said the third and final phase of the upgrading - the setting up of bunga raya and orchid gardens - was expected to be completed in 2022. — Bernama