Federal Territories

The Federal Government has over the years created three Federal Territories listed in Article One of the Federal Constitution: Kuala Lumpur (incorporating the federal capital), Labuan and Putrajaya (the federal administrative capital). Their creation has involved the acquisition of state land by the Federal Government in accordance with the Constitution.

From state lands to Federal Territories

The concept of the first Federal Territory was intended to enable full administrative control over the geographical area in which the Federal Government agencies were located. To this end, an area of 243 square kilometres, including the municipality of Kuala Lumpur (which is the federal capital) was made the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur in 1973 by virtue of the Constitutional (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1973.

Labuan, previously part of the state of Sabah, was made a Federal Territory in 1984. The Federal Territory of Labuan comprises seven small islands, of which Pulau Labuan is the largest, and lies some 10 kilometres off the northwest coast of Sabah. The islands cover an area of approximately 92 square kilometres and had a population of 58,900 in 2004. In 1989 the government declared Labuan an International Offshore Financial Centre.

The Federal Territory of Putrajaya, named after the first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, was established in 2001. Putrajaya is the nation's new federal administrative capital. Built to relieve the pressure of growth on the federal capital of Kuala Lumpur, it is symbolic of the nation's development.

The Federal Territories return 13 Members of Parliament (MPs) to Parliament: 11 from Kuala Lumpur, and one each from Labuan and Putrajaya.

The three Federal Territories

(1) Aerial view of central Kuala Lumpur. The city was until 1973 part of the state of Selangor. (2) Since being made a Federal Territory, Labuan has experienced rapid development. (3) Putrajaya is the newest Federal Territory.

The federal administrative capital

Dr Mahathir, who initiated the Putrajaya project, inspects a model of the completed project at its launch in August 1995.

Putrajaya

The Masterplan for Putrajaya, the new 4580-hectare administrative capital, is divided into 20 self-contained neighbourhood 'precincts', each with its own schools, shops, open spaces and other basic facilities. The administrative, commercial and cultural centres will be in the middle, surrounded by residential areas; the aim being to provide green and pleasant living conditions to encourage better productivity. Conceived as an 'intelligent city' with fibre-optic cables and the latest in information technology, Putrajaya will provide a paperless environment for electronic government at a final projected cost of US$8.1 billion.

Once completed in 2010, Putrajaya will accommodate 330,000 people in 52,000 housing units. It will function as the principal seat of government where 76,000 staff will occupy 1.5 million square metres of office space. Ultimately, 135,000 people will be working in Putrajaya's new office complexes.

The Putrajaya flag.

Tan Sri Azizan Zainal Abidin, first President of the Putrajaya Corporation.

1. Putra Mosque

3. Seri Perdana complex, the Prime Minister's residence

4. Istana Melawati, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's palace

2. Prime Minister's Office

6. Prime Minister's Department

7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

5. Palace of Justice

8. Ministry of Finance

Other facilities and landmarks

Top: The Putrajaya lake forms a focal point for the new administrative capital.

Above: The Putrajaya Convention Centre in Precinct Five. Its largest meeting hall can seat 3000 people.

Housing and public amenities

1. Putrajaya District Police Headquarters is flanked by the Federal Territory's Fire Station and Hospital.
2. Putrajaya Fire Station, in Precinct Seven.
3. The modern Putrajaya Hospital occupies an 11-hectare site.
4. Typical housing provided for government servants.