

# Pioneer green cities

## Putrajaya and Cyberjaya on 'environs-friendly' fast track

**PUTRAJAYA:** Putrajaya and Cyberjaya will be developed as pioneering green technology townships in the "shortest time possible" to reflect the Government's commitment to environmentally-sound and sustainable practices.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the decision was made during the inaugural Green Technology Council meeting that he chaired yesterday.

This, he added, was among the efforts being undertaken by the Government to ensure that the use of renewable energy and green technology was actively pursued.

"The Government realises that countries adopting sustainable energy and green technology will be the winners and leading nations of the 21st century. This is not an option but a reality that all nations must face.

"The use of renewable energy and green technology will be an important part in the

Government's agenda, and it will go beyond the responsibility of the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry to further promote and propagate its use.

"It is our commitment to bequeath the future generation with an environment which is pristine and healthy," he said at the launching of the RM1.5bil Green Technology Financing scheme here yesterday.

Najib said the fund aimed to encourage business investment in green technology, green construction and innovation, adding that the scheme would also encourage much-needed direct foreign investment and support technology transfer and capacity building for local companies.

He said as an added incentive, the Government would play its role by covering part of the loan's interest rate and providing a guarantee of 60% on financing, while the remaining 40% would be

covered by banks.

Since the scheme was launched on Jan 1, 186 companies have responded to the initial soft loan offer, he added.

Najib said Malaysia was committed in playing its role to address climate change issues, including setting a carbon reduction goal of 40% by 2020 while investing in green technology.

Meanwhile, Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui said his ministry was also working on several plans and road-maps such as the Energy Efficiency Master Plan, the Renewable Energy Policy and Action Plan and the Green Technology Action Plan.

"We hope we will be able to spur the economy by encouraging entrepreneurs to construct green buildings and hydro power plants, and manufacture solar panels, wind turbines and energy-efficient equipment," Chin said.