

Top guns

Two Federal Territories — Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya — have new heads. Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah is Kuala Lumpur's 13th mayor, while Datuk Muhammad Azmi Mohd Zin has been appointed Putrajaya Corporation president, both for a two-year term. >3

In charge: Mahadi (left) and Muhammad Azmi.

FT Ministry is considering a joint venture between the government and private sector for revival of the Putrajaya monorail project. — Filepic

Capital cities get new chiefs

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Town planning expert and economics graduate to head KL and Putrajaya respectively

RETIRED Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) executive director (Planning) Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah has been named Kuala Lumpur's 13th mayor.

Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa yesterday announced that Mahadi would take over the helm from outgoing mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan, whose two-year term ended on Sept 30.

"We are grateful for the Agong's blessings and Prime Minister's approval on Mahadi's appointment as the next Kuala Lumpur mayor for a two-year term effective today (Oct 1).

"With his extensive experience in DBKL, leadership qualities and as a professional town planner, I believe he will lead DBKL to reach greater heights in line with the Kuala Lumpur motto of 'Wilayah Prihatin', as well as continue to manage the city well," he said at a press conference at Menara Seri Wilayah in Putrajaya.

Mahadi was among four whom *StarMetro* highlighted as potential mayoral candidates, in a front-page story on Sept 14 headlined "Waiting in the wings."

He has a bachelor's degree in Town and Territories Planning from Universiti Teknologi Mara and a master's degree in Town Development from University of Strathclyde, Glasgow in the United Kingdom.

He started his career in DBKL in April 1983 as a town and country planning officer and clocked 36 years of service in various positions before retiring in September last year.

"Upon retirement, he was appointed planning advisor to the mayor until last month," said Annuar.

He also announced that the ministry's socio-economic division secretary Datuk Muhammad Azmi Mohd Zain had been appointed Putrajaya Corporation (PjC) president, replacing Datuk Dr Aminuddin Hassim whose two-year tenure also ended on Sept 30.

Annuar wished both Nor Hisham and Aminuddin well and conveyed his gratitude for their exceptional service throughout their tenure.

The incoming PjC president has a bachelor's degree in Economics from Universiti Malaya and a master's degree in Social Science (Development Science) from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Azmi started his career as economic planning unit deputy director in the Prime Minister's Department in January 1996 before moving on to the Federal Territories Ministry where he held various positions.

Separately, on the revival of the Putrajaya monorail project, Annuar said the ministry was looking at the



Annuar announcing the new KL mayor and PjC president at Menara Seri Wilayah, Putrajaya.

possibility of a joint venture between the government and private sector.

"The ministry wants to revive the project because part of its basic infrastructure is completed and a lot of money has been spent.

"Putrajaya needs better and modern public transportation service, in line with its status as the country's administrative capital.

"The cost will be high, so the Federal Territories and Transport ministries are open to proposals from the public as well as companies on the project," he said.

Annuar said that since part of the

work was completed, the cost involved would depend on the method of construction and technology involved.

"The Federal Territories Ministry will focus on building the monorail in Putrajaya while the Transport Ministry will connect it to areas such as Bangi, Kajang and Cyberjaya," he said.

He also clarified that the suggestion to change the name Jalan Raja Laut 1 to Jalan Palestin was mooted in 2019, following a religious seminar.

Annuar said DBKL had sought the advice of Foreign Affairs Ministry, which approved the name change but suggested that another road be chosen instead.

"However, the committee was of the opinion that the 150m stretch Jalan Raja Laut 1 would not have a huge impact.

"The committee could reconsider its decision due to people's sentiment in wanting Jalan Raja Laut 1 to remain and instead identify another road to be named Jalan Palestin," he said, adding that he would leave it to the committee to decide.

"I do not support any road named after national historical events or persons being changed.

"There are many road names that are no longer relevant to the nation's identity or current times.