

10-year tenants can now buy City Hall flats

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By HARJIT SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — All City Hall flat dwellers, with 10 years tenancy or more, can now buy the flats outright, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced today.

He said the rent that the dwellers had paid all these years would be treated as deposits.

"This action by the Government is only part of the overall plan to provide housing to people staying in urban areas," the Prime Minister told a cheering crowd of about 3,000 people in the packed Multi-Purpose Hall near the Jalan Pekeliling flats here.

There are about 13,000 such flats in the city.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government also appreciates the problems of squatters who are staying in squalid condi-

tions.

"The squatters are building small houses where there are no proper roads and other utilities.

"When a fire occurs, the squatter houses in a certain area are razed as there are no lanes between the houses and fire engines cannot enter the area.

Deliver

"We have decided to provide temporary houses for these squatters with all the necessary utilities such as electricity, piped water and latrines," he said.

He said in this way the people, although being squatters, would be able to live in a comfortable environment.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also announced that a floor in all new multi-storey buildings in the city would be allocated to hawkers.

"The Government hopes in this way to help city residents who are interested in engaging in small businesses.

"There will be no need for these small businessmen to ply their trade in the hot sun. Employees who get low salaries will also be able to get their food from the

hawkers," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said all these programmes of the Government are meant for the benefit of the people.

"The Opposition MPs can only talk and talk about things. In the end it is only the party that forms the Government which can deliver the goods.

"When there is a fire or a disaster, the Opposition MPs can come and look at the fires and call on the Government to undertake certain things...but in the end, it is the Government that takes the action," he said.