

# Change lifestyle, urges Mahathir

NSunT 21 SEP 1982

**PENANG, Mon.** — Malaysians should change their lifestyle in line with the times and learn to live in flats, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

The Prime Minister said: "So long as we do not change our lifestyle, will we continue to face a housing problem."

He said housing was a major problem in the country and land was getting more scarce, especially in towns.

"The people should realise and accept this reality. There must be better and more economic use of land," he said.

**Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir** was speaking at the opening of the **Taman Melati** and **Desa Melati** housing schemes at **Sungai Nibong** here.

**By A. KATHIRASEN**

Also present were **Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah**, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, **Datuk Abdulah Ahmad Badawi**, Deputy Minister, **Dr Goh Cheng Teik** and acting **Penang Chief Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Abbas**.

The Prime Minister stressed that in areas where land was scarce, the people should be willing to live in flats.

"We must not waste land. One-storey and two-storey houses in town areas are a waste of land. At the very least we must build four-storey houses," he said.

He said many people, and in particular the Malays, wanted to stay in houses with

compounds where they could rear poultry, grow fruit trees and other greens.

If this was adhered to, there would never be enough houses to meet the needs of the people.

**Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir** said one could "blame the Federal Government for the housing problem, and the State Government and the local authorities for placing all manner of regulations and delaying approval of plans."

"However, it must also be realised that in certain cases, even when all governmental and administrative requirements and problems have been solved, houses especially low-cost, cannot be built."

**Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir** said some people were too demanding and wanted detached, semi-detached or terrace housing.

This, he said, was not possible in land-scarce areas and in the towns.

He also said in order for a better and freer mix among the various races, more **Bumiputras** should be encouraged to stay in towns.

As **Bumiputras** could not afford to buy choice land at market prices, some State Governments were alienating land and selling at cheaper prices to them.

He said **Negri Sembilan**, where plots near the **Seremban** golf course had been sold to **Bumiputras** and some non-**Bumiputras** especially government servants, was a case in point.

He had investigated the matter and found there had been no misuse of power.

**Taman Melati** is a single-storey terrace housing scheme while **Desa Melati** is a kampung-type housing scheme.