

PM-SQUATTERS  
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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 26 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE FROM THE KAMPUNGS TO MIGRATE TO THE URBAN AREAS BUT THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN FLATS AND LONGHOUSES AND NOT CHOOSE TO LIVE IN SQUATTER AREAS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE COMING TO THE TOWNS FROM THE RURAL AREAS SHOULD NOT ONLY LIVE IN SQUATTER AREAS AS THE CONDITIONS IN SUCH AREAS WERE WORSE THAN THOSE IN THE KAMPUNGS.

+IF WE WISH TO LIVE IN THE TOWNS, WE MUST ACCEPT THIS FACT. TO REDUCE COSTS OF LAND, AND COST OF HOUSING, WE MUST BE WILLING TO LIVE IN HIGHRISE BUILDINGS OR LONGHOUSES.

+WE SHOULD NOT BE PROUD AND SAY THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO LIVE IN FLATS, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE HAWTHORNDEN NEW TOWN WHICH HE RENAMED BANDAR WANGSA MAJU, SHORT FOR BANDAR BARU TSTIWANGSA MAJU AT ULU KELANG.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE FLATS IN THE TOWNS WERE MORE COMFORTABLE THAN CONDITIONS IN OUR PARENTS' HOUSE AND THEY WERE DEFINITELY MORE CONFORMABLE THAN THE SQUATTER HOUSES.

+IF WE CONSIDER SQUATTER HOUSES AS BETTER THAN FLATS, IT MEANS THAT WE CAN AFFORD TO RENT OR PURCHASE LOW COST HOUSES BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR. -- MORE 1350/SA

#### PM-SQUATTERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S WISH TO SEE MORE RURAL PEOPLE MOVING TO THE URBAN AREAS DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY SHOULD CHANGE THE KAMPUNG LIFE FOR SQUATTER LIFE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION WAS TO HAVE THE PEOPLE FROM THE KAMPUNGS LIVING A BETTER LIFE IN THE TOWNS AND THE LIFE OF THE SQUATTER DID NOT REFLECT THE COMFORTS OF TOWN LIFE.

AS SUCH, HE SAID, THE PEOPLE OF THE URBAN AREAS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN RENTED HOUSES, OR EVEN SHARE ROOMS OR FLATS IF THE RENTAL WAS HIGH.

THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THE FACT THAT MORE PEOPLE LIVED IN AN ACRE OF LAND IN TOWNS THAN IN THE RURAL AREAS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESENT SQUATTER AREAS COULD BE DEVELOPED TO ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO LIVE COMFORTABLY IN THE TOWNS.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ASSIST SQUATTERS WHO WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH IT ON THE MATTER. -- MORE 1400/SA

#### PM-SQUATTERS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE SHOULD NOT ASK THAT OUR SQUATTER AREA BE OUR OWN, OR WISH TO HAVE OUR OWN BUNGALOW FREE OR CHEAPLY OR FOR A LOWER RENT THAN THAT WE PAY FOR OUR SQUATTER HOUSES.

+AND WE SHOULD NOT THINK THAT SINCE WE ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE LAND WE ARE ENTITLED TO OTHER PEOPLE'S LAND. JUST AS WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE OUR PROPERTY TAKEN OVER BY OTHER PEOPLE, WE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY AS OUR OWN AND THAT IF THE OWNER OF THE LAND WISHES TO HAVE IT BACK, HE MUST PAY US COMPENSATION, HE SAID.

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF THE SQUATTERS.

+THEY WISH THE SQUATTERS TO REMAIN SQUATTERS, BECAUSE WITHOUT THE SQUATTERS? THEY WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY ISSUES TO CHAMPION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF THE SQUATTERS BUT WERE ACTUALLY FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

HE SAID THAT IF THEIR PROPERTY WERE TAKEN OVER EVEN IF IT WERE FOR THE SQUATTERS, THEIR REACTION WOULD BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT: -- MORE 1425/MB

PM - SQUATTERS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE THAT EVERY FAMILY OR AS MANY OF THEM AS **POSSIBLE IN THE COUNTRY HAVE THEIR OWN HOUSE.**

**THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE PLANS TO OVERCOME THE HOUSING PROBLEM BUT, HE SAID, THEY WOULD NOT SUCCEED IF EVERY ONE WANTED TO HAVE HIS OWN WISHES MET.**

DATUK SERI'DR MAHATHXR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO INSTILL GOOD VALUES **AMONG THE PEOPLE AND NOT ONLY THE HAVES SHOULD PRACTISE SUCH VALUES.**

"IF WE ACCEPT THAT POVERTY GIVES US THE RIGHT TO DISCARD SUCH GOOD VALUES, THEN ANARCHY **WILL** REIGN IN OUR **SOCIETY,**" HE SAID.

ON THE NEW TOWN, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH ITS PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH EMPHASISED **THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AMENITIES.**

**THE DESIGN OF THE RESIDENTIAL AREA WAS ALSO AIMED AT PROMOTING INTERACTION AMONG THE RESIDENTS. -- MORE 1512/MK**  
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PM - SQUATTERS 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD CREATE A MORE UNITED **AND CONSIDERATE SOCIETY AND HEIGHTEN THE FEELING OF RESPECT AMONG THE RESIDENTS AND PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG THEM.**

**THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHETHER THE TOWN WOULD BE A BEAUTIFUL AND COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LIVE IN DEPENDED ON NOT ON BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE BUT ITS RESIDENTS.**

HE SAID NO ADMINISTRATION COULD CONTRL AND MAINTAIN THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TOWN IF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVE **DID NOT CONTRIBUTE THEIR EFFORTS' IN LOOKING AFTER IT.**

**HE SAID THAT IF EVERYONE OBEYED THE REGULATIONS AND WERE PROUD OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT, NOT ONLY WOULD THEIR LIFE BE BETTER BUT EVEN THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT BE REDUCED. -- BERNAMA 1515/MK**