

# Rural landowners reassured

You will  
still  
retain  
titles,  
says PM

JITRA, Sun. — The Prime Minister today assured rural people that they would continue to be owners of their land when it is developed by the Government under the Rural Urbanisation Concept.

Under the concept owners would be requested to co-operate and agree to allow their land to be developed either for agriculture or for small-scale industries to help raise their living standards.

(Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) said he would explain the concept in the mid-term report of the Fourth Malaysia Plan in Parliament later this month.

He was speaking to reporters after being briefed by officers of various departments on the development of Kubang Pasu at the District Office near here.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Nahar Shababuddin and District Officer Da-

tuk Hnji Noraman Haji Raffit.

Dr Mahathir said though the land would be developed collectively, the owners would retain the titles to their land which would be used as capital.

He assured rural land owners that the Government needed their co-operation and approval first before grouping their land for maximum and profitable utilisation.

## Suggestions

The Prime Minister was convinced that if small towns could be created through the concept, the rural people's living standard could be further uplifted.

It will be able to raise their income through traditional and modern agricultural projects apart from small industries which could be made available in such areas.

The urbanisation concept is a policy already accepted under the Fourth Malaysia Plan.

The Prime Minister, who is MP for Kubang Pasu, said he had suggested a number of steps to be taken by the authorities for the betterment of Kubang Pasu.

He was satisfied with steps already taken by the District Officer and other officers to identify areas for the process of urbanisation.

He was equally satisfied with the district's rate of development and believed that by 1990 virtually all the 130,000 people in the district would enjoy basic amenities such as water, electricity and proper roads.

Dr Mahathir also made a number of suggestions on how to upgrade the development of the district.

This is important in view of the fact that Kubang Pasu serves as a gateway to visitors and tourists travelling between Malaysia and Thailand.

The Prime Minister said the district needed to give a good impression and picture of Malaysia to outsiders.