

Adapt to urban life: Dr M

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PENANG, Sun. — The process of urbanisation is inevitable and everyone will need to adapt to it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"Small towns will become bigger ones and even kampungs will eventually turn into towns themselves," he said.

It is thus essential for the *rakyat*, especially those who are used to kampung living, to accept these changes and adapt themselves.

"Only then can they enjoy the full benefits of development," Dr Mahathir said at a people's tea party at the Seberang Prai Municipal Council Padang in Butterworth yesterday.

The Prime Minister said Penang was different from most other States because of its small size and the fact that it is "more urban than rural".

Although there are still small villages here, none in Penang are so remote as to be considered isolated.

Dr Mahathir said the pace of development in the State will eventually affect all these places. However, he said, the process of development does not merely mean the construction of buildings, roads and other facilities.

"It also means getting the people to adapt to an urban lifestyle which is definitely different from that in a kampung."

About 8,000 people attended the tea party which was the Prime Minister's last function in his two-day official visit to the State.

He later left for the Butterworth Air Base to fly back to Kuala Lumpur in an RMAF jet. Among those who saw him off were Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu and state dignitaries.