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## Dr M urges Malaysians to preserve country's natural environment

By P.  
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MALAYSIANS should value the natural greenery and climate of the country as it was one of the assets which needs to be preserved, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night.

He said Malaysia was fortunate to have a good climate and luxuriant greenery unlike some other countries where the land was dry and barren and not in the least attractive.

"This natural environment should be protected and not sacrificed in the name of development," he said.

"If there is to be deve-

**'KEEP IT GREEN'**

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lopment in any area, ensure that only the trees which come in the way are felled.

He said this when officiating the ground-breaking ceremony of the Malacca Country Club and Air Keroh Con-

dominium Valley project.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should instead plant more trees and grass so that the greenery in the country is enhanced as this makes life more

comfortable, and the country beautiful.

In a lighter vein, he added that because of this, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik would not agree to have Malacca's clean

environment "polluted" by an oil refinery.

(The State Government has been pushing for the construction of the Petronas oil refinery but the project had been shelved indefinitely by the Federal Government due to the present economic situation).

"Whether Malaccans accept this or not, it is true that we have to preserve our natural environment as it is one of our main assets," he said.