

U E165 AAE
MAHATHIR-CITY
BM

(P)

85

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 26 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE WANTED KUALA LUMPUR TO BE REGARDED AS A GARDEN CITY WITH ATTRACTIVE TREE-LINED AVENUES AND LANDSCAPED AREAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THIS WOULD MAKE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE CITY MORE CONDUCIVE AND ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS, FROM THE OTHER STATES AND OVERSEAS, TO VISIT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

THE REFRESHING WEATHER DUE TO THE GREENERY WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO MOVE AROUND MORE COMFORTABLY, AND MANY OF THEM WOULD ALSO FIND PUBLIC TRANSPORT MORE TOLERABLE, PARTICULARLY WHEN GOING TO WORK.

THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE BLISTERING HEAT IN THE CITY, AND NOISE POLLUTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHEN OPENING THE \$80 MILLION OVAL-SHAPED MENARA APERA-ULG IN JALAN RAJA CHULAN, PART OF THE +GOLDEN TRIANGLE+ BUSINESS AREA.

+I DO NOT WANT KUALA LUMPUR TO BE A CONCRETE JUNGLE, ABUNDANT WITH ONLY HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS. WITHOUT EFFORTS TO BEAUTIFY THE CITY WITH TREES AND LANDSCAPING ALONG ROADS AND BUILDINGS, THE CLIMATE WILL BE WARM, AND WHAT MORE MADE WORSE BY THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1302MST 26 01 85

D357

U E169 AAE
MAHATHIR-CITY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+I BELIEVE THAT IF EMPHASIS IS GIVEN TO PLANTING MORE TREES ALONG ROADS AND HAVING ADDITIONAL LANDSCAPED AREAS, MORE PEOPLE WILL COME TO KUALA LUMPUR. THEY CAN STROLL ABOUT UNDER THE MORE CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS, AND THOSE GOING TO WORK CAN USE THE BUS TO GET TO THE RESPECTIVE TERMINALS FROM WHERE THEY CAN WALK TO THEIR OFFICES.+

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THE NEED FOR OWNERS OF BUILDINGS, EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TOWARD MAINTAINING THEIR BUILDINGS.

+OF LATE, MANY HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS ARE BEING BUILT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BUT THERE IS A LACK OF EMPHASIS IN MAINTENANCE TO ENSURE THAT THEY REMAIN AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE DAY THEY WERE OPENED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE COULD NOT SEE WHY ALLOCATIONS COULD NOT BE SET ASIDE FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE WHEN THE OWNERS HAD ALLOCATED BIG SUMS TO PUT UP THE SKYSCRAPERS.

THE 20-STOREY MENARA APERA-ULG WAS PUT UP IN 24 MONTHS BY FOREST CITY DEVELOPMENT SDN BHD -- A WHOLLY MALAYSIAN VENTURE JOINTLY OWNED BY APERA AND UNIVERSAL LIFE GENERAL INSURANCE. -- MORE

1326MST 26 01 85

D359

U E170 AAE
MAHATHIR-CITY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE BUILDING AS ANOTHER LANDMARK FOR KUALA LUMPUR AS A POPULAR COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH CENTRE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

HE SAID THAT RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS TAKING PLACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH MOST OF THE EFFORTS COMING FROM SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL FIRMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE FELT THAT CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN -D-\$COUNTRIES IN -\$THE ECONOMIC SECTOR WOULD RESULT IN PROSPERITY FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA

1330MST 26 01 85