

D219

B E223 AAE
MAHATHIR-HOUSE R'R'R'
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, JAN 22⁸⁸ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHANAD
SAID TODAY THE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP DEMOCRACY CURRENTLY PRACTISED IN
THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE, FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A HOUSE
OWNERSHIP DEMOCRACY UNDER WHICH THE AIM IS FOR EVERY CITIZEN TO OWN
A HOUSE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE EXISTING SYSTEM, WHICH ALLOWS A
CITIZEN TO OWN PROPERTY, BE IT IN THE FORM OF SHARES, SAVINGS OR
HOUSE, WAS MORE LOGICAL.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES TO WINNERS OF A LOW-COST
HOUSING DESIGN COMPETITION HERE, HE REJECTED SUGGESTIONS THAT A
HOUSE OWNERSHIP DEMOCRACY BE INTRODUCED.

+THIS (SUGGESTION) DIFFERS FROM WHAT WE ARE PRACTISING --
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY WHICH CAN BE IN THE FORM OF HOUSES BUT NOT
NECESSARILY SO,+ HE SAID.

+BUT WHEN WE SAY WE WANT TO SEE EVERY CITIZEN IN THIS COUNTRY
OWN A HOUSE, WE ARE ENTERING THE REALM OF THE UNREASONABLE AND ONE
WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE.+ -- MORE

1430MST 22 01 88

D221

B E224 AAE
MAHATHIR-HOUSE 2 JOHOR BAHRU R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO COUNTRY WHERE EVERY
CITIZEN OWNED A HOUSE.

+THERE ARE THOSE WHO OWN A HOUSE, THERE ARE THOSE WHO OWN MORE
THAN ONE, AND THERE THOSE WHO OWN NONE BUT WHO STILL HAVE A PLACE TO
LIVE IN, BY RENTING OR OTHER MEANS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE NEEDED TO ELABORATE ON THE PROPERTY
OWNERSHIP DEMOCRACY AS THERE WERE STILL PEOPLE WHO MISUNDERSTOOD THE
NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE PRESENT PRACTICE, IT DID NOT MEAN THAT
NOT OWNING A HOUSE DID NOT MEAN A PERSON WOULD HAVE NO PLACE TO STAY
AS HE COULD RENT.

+IF WE SAY OUR POLICY IS TO SEE EVERY CITIZEN OWN A HOUSE, THEN
SUCH A POLICY CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1446MST 22 01 88

D225

B E226 AAE
MAHATHIR-HOUSE 3 JOHOR BAHRU R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF THIS REALITY WAS ACCEPTED, THEN IT WOULD NOT BE SO DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE THE PRESENT HOUSING QUESTION WHERE EVERYBODY WANTED TO BUY A HOUSE DESPITE HAVING TO BORROW MONEY TO DO SO.

HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY URBAN-DWELLERS, TO COPE WITH CHANGES IN THE TOWNS, INCLUDING SUCH PROBLEMS AS CONGESTION AND RISING LAND PRICES.

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID, IT WAS UNLIKELY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE URBAN AREAS COULD RETAIN THE WAY OF LIFE IN THE KAMPUNGS WHERE HOUSES AND COMPOUNDS WERE SPACIOUS.

THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO ADJUST TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFESTYLE TO LIVING IN TERRACE HOUSES AND HIGH-RISE FLATS.

ON LOW-COST HOUSES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED DEVELOPERS AND STATE GOVERNMENTS WOULD KEEP PRICES DOWN BY BUILDING ON LAND THAT WAS NOT TOO EXPENSIVE AND AT THE SAME TIME REGULATE OTHER FACTORS WHICH MIGHT PUSH UP COSTS.

HE LATER PRESENTED CASH PRIZES TO FIVE WINNERS OF EACH BUILDING CATEGORY.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, MENTERI BESAR HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, DEPUTY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER SENATOR HAJI HUSSEIN AHMAD AND DEPUTY PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER HAJI DAUD TAHA. -- BERNAMA

1507MST 22 01 88