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MAHATHIR-TOWN
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MELAKA, DEC 11 (BER AMA) - - STATE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SET UP NEW TOWNSHIPZ BEARING THE NAMES OF OLD TOWNS AS THIS COULD HELP TO INCREASE THE URBAN POPULATION. PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID CONCENTRATING DEVELOPMENT ON A PARTICULAR AREA COULD CAUSE THE PRICE OF LAND TO SOAR AND LEAD TO CONGESTION AS THE OLD TOWNS COULD NO LONGER BE EXPANDED.

AS SUCH, IT WAS HOPED THAT OLD TOWNS COULD HAVE NEW TOWNSHIPS WITH THE SAME NAMES AND ADMINISTERED BY THE SAME TOWN COUNCILS, HE SAID WHEN LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE NEW COMPLEX OF THE MELAKA HISTORICAL CITY COUNCIL AT BUKIT BERUANG HERE.

HE SAID CREATING NEW TOWNSHIPS WOULD LEAD TO LOWER LAND PRICE AND HELP TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WISHING TO MIGRATE TO THE URBAN AREA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM MOVING TO THE TOWNS AS URBAN MIGRATION WOULD NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE RURAL AREAS. -- MORE
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U E470 AAE
MAHATHIR-TOWN' 2 MELAKA

ALTHOUGH THE RURAL POPULATION WOULD DECREASE, PRODUCTIVITY COULD STILL BE INCREASED THROUGH THE USE OF MACHINERY, HE ADDED,

HE SAID HAVING NEW TOWNSHIPS WOULD PROVIDE FOR MORE ORDERLY BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WHILE OLD TOWNS COULD BE GIVEN A BOOST BY HISTORICAL RELICS.

MAYBE IN THE YEAR 2000 OR 2100, 95 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION WOULD BE LIVING IN THE URBAN AREAS TO FURTHER ENHANCE THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND TURN THEM INTO COMMERCIAL CENTRES, HE ADDED.

ON ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST PETTY TRADERS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TOWN COUNCILS DID NOT MEAN TO OPPRESS THEM BUT MERELY WANTED TO HELP THEM DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESS.

+IF STALLS ARE DIRTY AND NOT ORGANISED, THEY WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE PATRONISED AND THIS WOULD BE A LOSS TO THE TRADERS WHO ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH SHORT-TERM GAINS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1724MST 11 12 8 9

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MAHATHIR-TOWN 3 MELAKA

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO WANTED THE PEOPLE TO HAVE CLEANLINESS A WAY OF LIFE AS HAVING CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE TOWNS COULD INDIRECTLY HELP TO INTENSIFY THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE FOUR-STOREY COMPLEX, TO BE BUILT BASED ON THE +RUMAH MELAKA+ ARCHITECTURE, COSTS ABOUT \$12 MILLION AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1991.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, DATUK SERI-DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, HAD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE STATE UMNO AT DEWAN HANG JEBAT AT THE AIR KERUH EXPOSITION CENTRE. -- BERNAMA
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