

# Create new townships, says PM

By Sabry Shorif

MALACCA, Mon. — The Prime Minister today urged State Governments to create new townships to alleviate the demand for commercial and Government offices and residential homes in existing towns.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of the Malacca Municipal Council complex in Bukit Beruang near here, he said the new townships should have similar names like the existing towns with one bring

the old section and the other the new part of the town like old and new Malacca.

In developed countries the old section of the town would have among its attractions historical buildings and sites while the new township would be the hub of commercial and administrative activities.

On urbanisation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the migration of people to urban centres would not be a loss to rural folks, adding that manpower reduction for rural

agriculture could be offset by greater use of machines.

Later, speaking to reporters after a luncheon hosted by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Rahim Tamby Chik at the latter's official residence here, he said the Barisan Nasional Government will not neglect cities and towns for being loyal to the Opposition but will continue to develop these urban centres.

Advising Barisan Nasional component parties not to worry over what he termed as the anti-establishment attitude among

urbanites, Dr Mahathir said the history of the coalition's struggle showed its power and support came from rural constituencies.

However, he said it was not the wish of the Barisan Nasional to penalise urbanites for supporting the Opposition, adding the coalition accepted their choice of electoral representatives.

"We do not want cities and towns to decay because the urban people do not support us. That is not our wish," he said.

Asked to elaborate on his

speech at the Batu Berendam airport, near here, where he had said that, despite whatever the Government did for city and townsfolk, the Barisan Nasional component parties did not do in expectation of getting their political allegiance, he said:

"Based on past experiences, whenever we stand in urban constituencies, we are likely to lose, despite what the Government has

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## Solve problems the Barisan way, says PM

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done for urbanites."

He added that most cities and towns were pro-Opposition.

"We are not saying that we do not want the (political) support of the city and townsfolk. But they have adopted an anti-establishment stand and we respect their stand."

On how the Barisan Nasional would fare in the year 2000 where 95 per cent of Malaysians are expected to stay in urban areas, especially with the present

trend among townsfolk supporting the Opposition, the Prime Minister said:

"If at that time the people reject the Barisan, what can we do?"

When speaking to about 2,000 Barisan Nasional supporters at the Batu Berendam airport, Dr Mahathir urged coalition partners and members to solve their problems through negotiations and discussions and in the spirit of racial harmony.

"We can solve any problem if we take this ap-

proach. Only recently we have solved a problem which should have not been a problem in the first place, using this approach," he said.

He added the Barisan mechanism of solving problems ensured everyone's interests were taken care of and no one would be deprived of his rights.

The Prime Minister said this Barisan mechanism was necessary as the country was multi-lingual, multi-racial and multi-religious