

# Build new towns -next to, old ones; says PM

MALACCA, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today urged state governments to create modern townships next to old towns as a means of lowering land costs for development.

The new towns could bear the names of the old towns and be administered by the same municipal councils, he said at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Malacca Municipal Council's new headquarters complex at Bukit Beruang here.

Dr Mahathir said the new towns would also ease congestion in the urban areas.

"The old towns can be historically important while the new townships should be planned to become business centres and grow in an orderly manner.

"This is what the Government hopes to see in all towns," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Government did not wish to prevent the on-going drift to the urban areas by rural people as it was a natural phenomenon which need not necessarily mean a reduction in agricultural activities.

He said that with sophisticated machinery and better methods of farming, productivity in the farms could be raised.

He said that according to present trends, about 90 per cent of the country's population could be living in urban areas by the year 2000.