

PM gives development order

Kampung Baru to go modern

BY JEFFREY RAMAYAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Prime Minister has directed City Hall to develop Kampung Baru, which in its present state has been described as an anachronism of the capital city, into a modern and comprehensive "city village".

In view of the poor conditions in the enclave created by the colonial administration, he proposed that a section of Kampung Baru be developed immediately into an area with modern commercial and residential facilities.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad issued the directive to Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Elyas Omar and other City Hall officials today after a two-hour early morning visit to Kampung Baru.

Asked by reporters, after he was briefed by City Hall officials, about the purpose of his visit, the Prime Minister said he wanted to see for himself the condition of Kampung Baru.

Dr Mahathir, who said he undertook the visit in his capacity as chairman of the Kampung

Baru rehabilitation committee which was formed by the Government recently, said he was dissatisfied with conditions in the area.

He said if the people of Kampung Baru were happy with the development in the area, then there was no need for the Government to develop it further.

The Prime Minister toured the Sunday market, one of Kampung Baru's famous sites where weekend petty traders sell an assortment of fresh vegetables, Malay cakes and other household items.

Unhealthy

He also visited various construction sites, the drainage system and flood control network. Kampung Baru is located in the Titivangsa Parliamentary constituency covering an area of about 100 hectares with a population of about 40,000.

During the visit, he was accompanied by Tan Sri Elyas, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Suleiman Mohamed, who is MP for Titivangsa, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Hamid and the director-general of City Hall, Datuk Haji Noordin Abdul Razak.

Speaking to newsmen later, Tan Sri Elyas said Dr Mahathir expressed dissatisfac-

tion at the living conditions of the Malays in Kampung Baru.

He said Dr Mahathir wanted a section of Kampung Baru to be developed without delay. The proposed area should have a mixture of modern commercial and residential facilities.

Tan Sri Elyas said: "Upon receiving this directive, we shall expedite our land use plan for the area and carry out an organised development programme."

Tan Sri Elyas, elaborating on the visit, said Dr Mahathir observed that the drains and roads were too close to houses and that the development was not done properly.

The Datuk Bandar said: "Dr Mahathir said development must be carried out in an orderly manner to ensure that the Malays could afford to live in the modern and comprehensive area.

"We will build modern commercial buildings which the Malays can rent out to non-Malays or to the private sector if they do not want to operate the premises themselves."

Tan Sri Elyas said the Malays would own the buildings.

He said the Prime Minister was also unhappy with the unhealthy conditions in the area.

Tan Sri Elyas said City Hall would take a serious view of the Prime Minister's observations and take immediate corrective measures.