

Government keen to keep historical places, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Government is keen to retain old buildings and historical places to preserve its national heritage but, at times, had to give in to other priorities including development projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government, sometimes, had the task of making choices as to which

area to preserve and which to develop.

"When we decide to tear down some old buildings to put up modern ones, there is always a furore from some quarters."

"People should accept that some buildings have to go. Furthermore, restoring and maintaining old buildings is expensive," he said

at the launching of Artiquarium here.

Artiquarium is situated at the Loke Mansion, which has a history stretching back to the 19th century. It has been turned into an exhibition area for paintings and antiques.

The inaugural exhibition at Artiquarium gives the opportunity for young artists to show their work

alongside those of internationally acclaimed local painters.

Earlier, the public affairs director of the Artiquarium, Datin Tessie Lim, said besides promoting local talents, there were plans to bring Malaysian paintings and other creative work for exhibitions overseas.