

Pass on tax cut benefits to buyers, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Government's decision to abolish taxes on a wide variety of items would have the desired result if traders pass on these benefits to consumers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Government's strategy to abolish taxes on products which are popular with locals and tourists was to increase the revenue of traders and to help develop the tourist trade.

If traders grab all these benefits for themselves, the prices of goods will not come down and this will not attract buyers to patronise these outlets, he said.

"I am glad that traders in Kuala Lumpur do not resort to such tactics," the Prime Minister said, adding that traders can maintain long-term benefits by taking reasonable profits.

Dr Mahathir stressed these points at the opening ceremony of the Lot 10 shopping complex in Bukit Bintang.

The Prime Minister said the mushrooming of shopping complexes was a clear indication that many Malaysians could afford to buy luxurious products.

He attributed this to the country's peace and stability which have helped the economy to grow.

He said the Government was open to proposals and views from all quarters who want further development in the Federal capital adding that it was everybody's wish that Kuala Lumpur would reach the status of other renowned cities of the world.

On the new shopping complex, Dr Mahathir said, apart from its distinctive colours, Lot 10 was also exclusive with the sale of many brand name products.

He hoped that traders would compete against one another in a healthy manner within the framework of ethics to succeed in their business.