

# Maintain buildings in the city: Mahathir

OWNERS of buildings in the city have been urged to always keep their premises clean and attractive.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that after spending huge sums of money to put up beautiful and attractive buildings, it would be wasteful if there was lack of maintenance.

"In a short time, the building would no longer be attractive," he said when opening the \$130 million Lot 10 shopping complex at Jalan Bukit Bintang on Wednesday night.

The Prime Minister also said that people would be able to live in comfortable surroundings if they co-operated in maintaining the cleanliness of the city.

He said he was happy that Kuala Lumpur had become a clean and beautiful city, a change that could not have been brought about by the authorities without the co-operation of every resident.

Dr Mahathir said he was glad that there were not many cases of vandalism of public amenities, which showed that the people were becoming more civic conscious and responsible.

A clean and beautiful city would draw tourists, and encourage companies to set up offices here, which would lead to more jobs and greater business opportunities, he said.

"Only good will bring good," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Kuala Lumpur was becoming more and more popular as a shopping paradise and

was able to compete with other cities in this region.

The change came about because the government had abolished the high taxes on various goods, he said, adding that the strategy was aimed at providing ample shopping opportunities for not only the local people but also tourists.

This had also helped the tourism industry and added to the income of the people, and today it had become evident that the strategy was appropriate and effective, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said, however, that the relevant tax reductions must be passed on to the consumers.

If traders took advantage of the tax reductions to make excessive profits, the prices of goods would remain unchanged and unattractive to customers, he added.

"I take pride in the fact that the traders in Kuala Lumpur have not resorted to this," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that Kuala Lumpur could become more successful than long-standing cities of the world by learning from the experience of famous cities and not repeating their mistakes.

He said the government was open to suggestions and views for the further development of Kuala Lumpur until it acquired the status of those long-standing cities.