

Dr M: New roads offer business opportunities

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KUALA KANGSAR, Thurs. — The people should seize the business opportunities offered to them whenever the Government develops new roads, particularly in the rural areas, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The building of new roads should help raise the income of residents in the nearby locations, the Prime Minister added.

Dr Mahathir said new roads in the rural areas allow the *kampung* folk to find better markets for their produce. The new roads act as a catalyst for the residents, he said.

Once a new road is built in a *kampung* area, the value of the surrounding area goes up, he said, citing developed areas like Kuala Lumpur which has good road network now fetches up to \$800 per square foot.

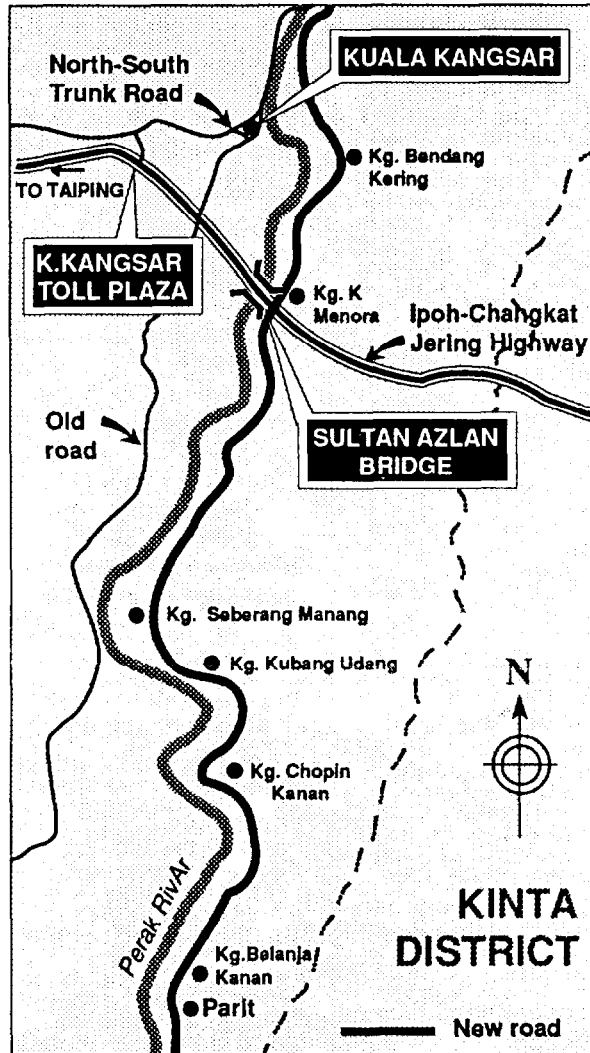
The Prime Minister said this when he opened the new 47km road between Bendang Kering and Belanja here. Construction of the road cost \$10 million.

The road will benefit about 40,000 people who can now transport their fruits, latex and oil palm fruits easily to Kuala Kangsar, Ipoh and elsewhere. Formerly they only had a timber track to use.

Dr Mahathir urged the surrounding residents to do their part by developing the land following the construction of the road.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ranli Ngah Talib, said a new bridge is being planned at Sayong near here to join this royal town with scores of villages across Sungai Perak.

He said the bridge would bring greater progress for the rural folk who now use a long route or boats to reach the town.



Map showing the new road between Bendang Kering and Belanja