

CNS1290  
U GE 31-05 00173 EG187  
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Mahathir-city ''

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said Kuala Lumpur should not deteriorate into a filthy and disorganised metropolis like some cities in industrialised countries when Malaysia attains a developed nation status.

+I visualise Kuala Lumpur as a beautiful, clean, comfortable city with a good public transport system and its dwellers are orderly, good income earners and are not litter-bugs, + he said talking about his vision of the federal capital in 2020.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was speaking at a press conference after chairing the inaugural meeting of the special committee of Kuala Lumpur's development at City Hall here today.

He reminded city-dwellers that they have to pay certain taxes such as road toll to get the various facilities to make city life comfortable.

The present practice of the government giving substantial subsidies to major towns in the country should be reviewed with the people sharing part of the burden, he said.-- more

♥31/05/20-26MST

CNS1304

U GE 31-05 00166 EG188

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Mahathir-city 2 Kuala Lumpur ''

Citing an example, the Prime Minister said the government was spending \$1 billion on municipal sewerage projects alone.

He said it would be unfair to the rural people in Kuala Nerang and Kubang Pasu for example, if the government raised petrol price just to get additional revenue to provide facilities for Kuala Lumpur city dwellers.

He said besides certain ministers, the Selangor Menteri Besar also sits on the committee to coordinate the development of Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding areas.

Its other members include the ministers of Transport, Finance, Works, Public Enterprises; Energy, Telecommunications and Posts; Science, Technology and Environment; the Chief Secretary to the Government, Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar and the Inspector-General of Police.

The Prime Minister said today's meeting discussed the city's general problems namely real estate development such as condominiums and business houses, transport system and traffic congestion, road expansion, squatters and air pollution.-- more

♥31/05/20-47MST

CNS1309

U GE 31-05 00134 EG189

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Mahathir-city 3 Kuala Lumpur ''

The meeting agreed to the setting up of a committee comprising officials of the City Hall and several neighbouring district councils to coordinate daily matters pertaining to the city's development and that of the adjacent areas.

Increasing number of in-bound vehicles from the surrounding areas contributed to the traffic congestion in the city, he said.

The government would decide soon on the proposal to build a mono-rail system to reduce the congestion, he said.

He said several projects announced earlier had to be shelved because of the economic slowdown in 1985.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government was also thinking of introducing restricted zones in the city as a way to reduce traffic congestion.-- more

CNS1311

U GE 31-05 00118 EG190

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Mahathir-city 4 Kuala Lumpur ''

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said construction of condominiums could economise city land space and accommodate more people as compared to bungalows.

Life in condominiums is more orderly with the building management taking care of security besides providing recreational facilities, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir regretted that some bungalow residents were complaining that condominiums built near their homes were taking away their privacy.

The Prime Minister said these residents should accept this as part of city life.

He said the government would ensure that all levels of people could afford to live in condominiums and not just the upper-class.-- more

♥31/05/21-22MST

CNS1313

U GE 31-05 00176 EG191

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Mahathir-city 5 Kuala Lumpur ''

The Prime Minister said the matter pertaining to the use of western names for condominiums would also be dealt with and noted that Malaysians have a liking for western names.

He said while the government was prepared to resettle city squatters, they, on the other hand, have always taken such gesture as oppressive.

The Prime Minister said he was perplexed that many squatters accused the government of being unfair despite giving them ample notice of eviction, compensation or alternative accommodation in longhouses.

He said pollution of the city air was caused by smoke from vehicles using leaded petrol or diesel, factories and burning of garbage.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the committee will hold its next meeting in two months time when a grand map of Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding areas is ready.

The map would help it locate high-rise structures, bus routes and the city's drainage and sewerage systems for planning purposes, he said.--  
Bernama

♥31/05/21-48MST