

Panel to oversee growth of KL and Selangor

By Rohaizad A. Rahim

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — A committee comprising officials from City Hall and the local authorities in Selangor will be formed to co-ordinate development projects in the federal capital.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the committee was needed to balance the pace of development in both the city and Selangor.

He said the accelerated growth of housing development in areas bordering the federal capital have unwittingly contributed to problems in the city.

"Such growth in Selangor is beneficial to the state but it has also led to

city dwellers having to contend with traffic and pollution problems," he told reporters after chairing the inaugural meeting of a special Cabinet committee on the development of Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir said other problems are: development of condominiums and shopping complexes, traffic flow, pollution and sewage and drainage problems.

Dr Mahathir said the committee would find ways to overcome the effects caused by the construction of condominiums and shopping complexes in the city.

He also said several options were discussed on how to control the flow of traffic into the city.

One of them was an area pricing zone, where

vehicles entering the city will have to pay a fee.

The committee also discussed the need to improve the city's sewage and drainage system.

Another cause discussed was the increasing atmospheric pollution in the city caused by cars using leaded-petrol and diesel engines. Sawmills and open burnings were also a major cause.

Other members of the committee are the Ministers of Transport; Finance; Works; Energy, Telecommunication and Posts; Public Enterprises; and the Science Technology and Environment.

Also on the committee were Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib and Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Elyas Omar.