

MORE FUNDS SOUGHT

By M. Veera Pandiyan

MALACCA, Tues. — The public may have to pay for services now provided free. The cabinet had directed state Governments and ministries to find new sources of revenue to finance the nation's rapid economic growth.

The Prime Minister said today the cabinet decided last week that money should be raised in every possible way, except by selling buildings.

"The Government would have to examine what services, now provided free, should be paid for," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said after being briefed on Malacca's development by State Secretary Datuk Mohamed Zam Abdul Wahab at Seri Negri here.

For example, he said, government forms were now distributed free although it cost a lot of money to print them.

He also welcomed a proposal that state governments could impose toll for new expressways.

"The people may be unhappy with this move but we do not have much money to supply and have to find more sources," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day visit to the state, said investors should also be made to realise that they should contribute to the cost of infrastructure and not only for the cost of industrial land.

For example, he said the country's new international airport, to be built at Sepang at a cost of \$20 billion, would not only be used by manufacturers in the area and those in Kuala Lumpur, but also those from Malacca.

"The goods produced here would also be brought to Sepang and loaded onto freighter aircraft."

Similarly, he said, people from other parts of the country would also benefit from the new West Port in Klang.

"That is why land costs should also be decided at a rate where there are some returns for the Government," he added.

On a proposal by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik that state Governments be allowed to impose tolls for its expressways, he said: "I agree one hundred per cent."

"It's true that the people already pay road tax, but for what type of roads?"

"Expressways are used by only certain motorists, not those in estates and rural areas. Those who use expressways

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should pay," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government needed to find new sources of revenue to keep pace with national growth.

He said the Government did not want to resort to borrowing to get more money for development.

"If we borrow too much, we may end up like some 'beggar' nations which are unable to repay their debts."

Dr Mahathir urged government officers, state exco members and politi-

cians to "buck up" to meet the challenges in achieving developed status for Malaysia by the year 2020.

The Prime Minister and Datin Paduka Siti Hasmah were greeted on arrival at the Batu Berendam Airport by Tan Sri Rahim and wife, Puan Sri Hajjah Zahedah Abdullah, Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, and Deputy Education Minister Dr Fong Chan Onn and other state leaders.

The weekly cabinet meeting will be held here tomorrow.