

Dr M: Charges won't be a burden

MALACCA Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Government's decision to impose charges for services and forms now provided free would not burden the people.

He said the Government realised that the move would make people unhappy but it had no other choice to raise more money.

Speaking to reporters

after chairing a cabinet meeting here, he said the people had to change their attitude on services provided by the Government and should be prepared to pay for the benefits they enjoyed.

"The people always want the best things but do not want to pay.

"They want the best roads but don't want to pay toll; they want the Government to supply all sorts of services but don't

want to pay taxes.

"I don't believe that the public cannot pay because the amount would be small," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the public should realise that the Government spent a lot to print forms which are given free.

"This money could be better used for other purposes if we impose charges for forms."

He also said the Kuala Lumpur International

Airport might be turned into a military air base, a domestic airport or a cargo airport once the new \$20 billion airport at Sepang is ready.

He said the Government was still considering the three options.

Dr Mahathir added that the Subang airport was already congested and with the increase in air traffic, there would be a need for another runway by the year 2000.

"We have the choice of adding a new runway or building a new airport. We decided on a new airport because of future demands.

"We do not know how many more airports we may need in future," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Selangor Government had already gazetted the airport site and frozen all land and business transactions in the area.