

Improve country's green

JOHOR BARU, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for increased efforts to maintain and improve the "green" look of the country.

He said rather than cutting hills and destroying the landscape, all concerned should double their efforts to make Malaysia a "green" nation.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was a very green country

and this was only natural because nature was relatively easy to manage here.

"I still believe that we should maintain the green colour of this country. We are a very green country. It is so easy to manage nature here," he said at the opening of the Palm Resort Golf and Country Club in Senai, 13km from here.

The RM350 million resort is a joint venture between Amcol Holdings Ltd of Sin-

gapore and Superline Sdn Bhd, which is associated to Kasugai Kanko Kaihatsu Co Ltd of Japan.

Dr Mahathir said the project should serve as a model for developers because of extensive green and landscaping, which he added was unique, beautiful and "very pleasing to the eye".

The resort is spread over 324ha of a beautifully-landscaped former oil palm estate, next to the Sultan Is-

mail Airport in Senai.

It comprises three championship golf courses with spectacular views of rolling hills, artificial lakes and an abundance of local flora and fauna.

"We should make this resort a model for others ... it is very beautiful. This is the way to develop and transform land in the country.

"We must stop cutting hills. I don't understand why Malaysians love to do

look, urges Dr M

this. Why can't we keep undulating hills and natural slopes and maintain the beauty of the land?

"Housing developers, for instance, should stop flattening hills and instead, build according to the contour of the land, using appropriate design. Cutting of hills should be stopped at once," he said.

Dr Mahathir said developers should also plant more trees and shrubs, instead of

resorting to indiscriminate cutting of trees so that houses could face each other.

"It is a sin to cut down very old trees. It shows we have no respect for nature. If necessary, let the trees grow through the roof. We know this can be done," he said.

On golf course developments, he said the Government encouraged this as it attracted rich foreign tour-

ists who found playing golf in the country still very cheap.

He said Johor Baru had 23 golf courses as compared to Kuala Lumpur's 40, and the Government would continue to woo more investments in this sector as they were good for the country.

"We want foreigners to come here and play golf because they bring foreign exchange," Dr Mahathir added.

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