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Mahathir-cities

CITIES MUST IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) -- Cities will have to redefine their philosophy and identity in terms of an improved quality of life, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"This should be done as they wrestle with increases in population size, high rise concrete structures, horrendous traffic and ever-increasing demands by citizens for services," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in a message for the "Quality Urban Life '97" (QUL '97) exhibition being held in conjunction with the South-South Mayors Conference at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

More than 120 companies from 13 countries are taking part in the exhibition which coincided with Kuala Lumpur's 25th anniversary celebration.

Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim opened the conference attended by about 300 city leaders and planners from countries of the South and later toured the exhibition.

Dr Mahathir hoped the conference could come up with some solutions to the issues concerning cities.

"We are now in the era where technological and biotechnological changes have a profound impact on our lives.

"Coupled with the advances in information and technology, the way we work and live will alter and with it our social values," he said.

Because of the large congregation of people, cities were most vulnerable to the negative impacts of rapid social change, said Dr Mahathir.

Therefore efforts must be intensified to mitigate those problems, he added.

Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff said the exhibition would highlight the latest technologies and solutions to urban problems related to the environment, housing, medicare, transport and utilities.

The exhibition is expected to attract about 15,000 visitors. -- Bernama  
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