

05 NOV 1999

Mahathir-Architect

BUILDING DESIGNS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED, SAYS
PM

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that local architects should design buildings taking into account equipment which will be installed when the buildings are occupied.

He said that even though local architects had successfully designed unique buildings in the country, the design of some buildings still did not take into account equipment that would be installed later.

"I am not happy as the design of many buildings have yet to take into account equipment to be installed like air conditioning units...still seen attached at windows, sometimes in a row outside, making beautiful buildings less beautiful," he said when launching the book "KLIA Gateway to Malaysia", at the Prime Minister's Department, here.

Dr Mahathir also criticised some multi-storey residential unit occupants who dry out their clothes at the window sill, making such ugly sights.

"As such, such matters should be given attention by architects...whether we design buildings taking into account equipment to be installed or we adapt the equipment according to the design of the buildings," he said.

Dr Mahathir also touched on the construction of buildings in the country since independence.

There was a standard design for government office buildings, he said.

"When we achieved independence, we were poor. In such a situation, we can only build government office buildings in a similar design, like packs of cigarettes...and the buildings are still in existence," he said.

The prime minister said that with the increase in the country's revenue and the country could be successfully developed, the government had constructed buildings to meet the specific needs of the various departments or ministries.

"As such, we now no longer have standard buildings. Each building is specifically for a certain ministry so that it is distinctive," he said.

He congratulated architects in the country and the Malaysian Architects Association (PAM) for having successfully designed unique buildings like the Putrajaya government offices complex.

At the function, Dr Mahathir was presented the President's Award by PAM president Prof Datuk Parid Wardi.

Parid said that the prime minister was the first recipient of the award, presented in appreciation of his contributions and commitment to the development of the field of architecture in the country.

The 150-page pictorial on the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang is published by Architectural Sign Network Sdn Bhd. Each copy, in hard cover, costs RM250.

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