

26/09/2001

Act immediately, local councils told

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - Local authorities have been directed to immediately develop former squatter areas as parks or other amenities to prevent new settlements from springing up.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said houses left vacant by relocated squatters should be destroyed immediately so that the land could be fenced up and used as storage space, be turned into parks or other development. This directive went out to the local authorities recently.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government aimed to resolve the squatter problem in Kuala Lumpur by 2003 by building 35,000 units of low-cost flats.

He also said the authorities had approved 5,000 hawker licences to enable petty traders to operate in the capital city.

(END)