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PM appeals for conservation

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THE preservation of the environment is an important guideline in the national development blueprint, but some developers are still reluctant to heed the Government's appeal to practise conservation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said although the Government viewed environmental preservation seriously, developers were still taking the matter lightly.

"We have been practising the preservation of environment concept in developing the country, but at times developers do not heed our advice. They prefer to cut and flatten the hills to erect buildings when in actual fact you can do it without cutting the hill."

Speaking to reporters after opening the Paya Indah Wetlands in Dengkil near Putrajaya yesterday, he said hills could remain in development projects as they could be an attractive feature in the landscape.

He said developers should understand that at present people were prepared to pay more for residential areas where the development concept was nature-friendly.

"Many developers agree to this fact now and I hope they will manifest this by not cutting down hills indiscriminately," he said, citing examples of nature-friendly developments in Langkawi, Kedah.

He said several holiday resorts in Langkawi attracted regular long-term foreign guests for the simple fact that they were built in the jungle with minimal destruction to nature.

"They enjoy being in such an environment and the developers should understand this as facts because in the end they tend to gain more ... it is possible to carry out development without destroying the environment," he said.

He also advised architects to focus on the need to perfect final details of their designs so that apart from being attractive, buildings such as residential units become user-friendly.