

People should learn how to use modern facilities, says PM

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■ **By Ravi Nambiar and
Shahrum Sayuthi**
news@nstp.com.my

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. — Malaysians should know how to use modern facilities and conveniences and become high-class consumers to boost the image of the country among vis-

itors.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said unless the people changed their way of life, they would continue to be third-class consumers despite having first-class facilities.

He said Malaysians should realise that it was now a different time and

age, compared to the post-Independence period, and they should alter their lifestyles accordingly.

“We in Malaysia are recognised as cultured people.

“We must, therefore, remind ourselves that our way of life has changed from the time of Merdeka.

“Our habits and ways of doing

things must change to reflect our status as a developed and modern nation,” he said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the RM200 million Festive Street Mall, one of the key components of the Danga Bay Development project.

The Johor privatisation project is being developed by Danga

Bay Sdn Bhd (DBSB) and jointly managed by Ekovest Bhd and Pembinaan Limbongan Setia (PLS) Bhd.

Danga Bay, which dots the Lido Beach waterfront here, is to be developed in phases over 15 years at an estimated cost of RM15 billion.

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Dire need for mindset change

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among people, says Dr Mahathir

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Also present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, DBSB director Kamarul Ariffin Sulaiman and Limbongan-Ekoveest Management Sdn Bhd director Datuk Lim Kang Hoo.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians had a penchant for coming up with creative ideas to develop their surroundings, resulting in the building of several large-scale development projects around the country.

Consequently, he noted, Malaysia had buildings and facilities that were comparable to some of the best in the world, although their care and upkeep was slack.

"It makes no sense to build world-class facilities when the mentality of our people is still third-class," he said, adding that there was a dire need for a change of mindset.

Referring specifically to the Danga Bay project, Dr Mahathir said it was a "dream come true" for Johor Baru residents because of the host of social, recreational and public facilities provided.

He said such mega projects would help rid the "glaring" difference in landscape as visitors travel to Johor Baru from across the Causeway.

"We do not want visitors from the other side to see this glaring difference. Instead, we want them to be filled with awe at the standard and quality of the facilities we provide," he said.

Earlier, after the opening of the Johor Customs Tower and launching of the construction of the Gerbang Perdana bridge here, the Prime Minister said Malaysia did not harbour any economic interest in replacing its side of the Causeway with a new elevated bridge.

He said the bridge was being built for environmental reasons.

"The bridge will ensure the free flow of water in the Tebrau Straits ever since the Causeway was built 80 years ago.

"We want leisure boats to sail freely in the straits. Now they have to sail around (Singapore) to get to the other side.