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Dr Mahathir: City residents must take care of public facilities

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised city residents to take care of their housing areas and public facilities such as parks.

The Government, said the Prime Minister, spent a lot of money on such facilities to enhance the quality of life of residents.

"It is pointless to have beautiful buildings, only to neglect them until they become squatter areas," he said at a tea party in conjunction with the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory Day at Tasik Titiwangsa.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Datuk Bandar Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohd Taufek, leaders of political parties and diplomats.

Dr Mahathir said city residents must not neglect their role in helping to maintain the city because they would suffer if public facilities were damaged or rendered useless.

The Prime Minister said with Kuala Lumpur developing rapidly and the population increasing, problems were bound to surface.

"We must accept the fact that since we are living in a city, there are certain costs that we should be prepared to shoulder."

He expressed satisfaction that despite rapid progress, Kuala Lumpur was still able to preserve its greenery.

He said if land which was developed into parks had been given to private companies instead, they would be turned into housing estates as such ventures would yield a higher profit than parks.

Dr Mahathir said while cities and towns were being developed, the Government did not neglect rural areas, and it had developed new areas complete with facilities.