

**Town Planning Must Be Carried Out Smartly - Dr Mahathir
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said towns and urban centres must be planned smartly by taking into consideration various factors as well as future needs.

He said these considerations included fulfilling the demands of the community comprising various backgrounds, the current trend and the population growth rate.

"We don't plan for today or the next 10 years, but over the years. If this is done, then the problem of congestion can be avoided," he said in his speech after being awarded the Patron of the Malaysian Institute of Planners, here Wednesday.

The patron award, in recognition of Dr Mahathir's contributions towards national development, was presented by Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Chor Chee Heung.

Dr Mahathir said currently there were various types of demands that must be fulfilled in planning for a township, unlike in the past.

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