

**Dr Mahathir worries booming Johor Baru only for foreigners,
not locals**
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BY LEE SHI-IAN

As Johor Baru develops rapidly with more skyscrapers, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today wondered who will be the inhabitants of the city.

Malaysia's longest-serving prime minister wrote in his blog that the "New Johor Baru", as he described the development, would take the country to a new era.

"Just like Kuala Lumpur, Johor Baru will achieve Vision 2020 earlier than other cities in the country," Dr Mahathir (pic) wrote.

"However, question remains as to who will live and work in the various skyscrapers being built in the new Johor Baru? Where will they come from?"

Dr Mahathir said the new skyscrapers were not cheap as the materials used in the construction were of the finest quality.

"Of course the materials used are marble and granite... lifts and escalators have been installed for the convenience of visitors.

"The top floors may be 30 to 40 floors high, obviously luxury flats with rentals of up to tens of thousands of ringgit per month.

"Therefore, could it be possible that the tenants of these luxury offices and residences be from Majidee or Gelang Patah?"

He expressed concern that the tenants would not be Malays or locals from Johor Baru or surrounding villages.

Dr Mahathir cited an example where in 1819, Singapore had been sold to the British by the Temenggong for the price of 60,000 Spanish dollars.

"At that time, there were just a few fishermen who lived in Singapore and made a living there," he said.

"Foreigners flooded into Singapore until the original inhabitants were completely outnumbered in the cities which flourished on the island state."

He warned that there would be a possibility that the new Johor Baru might also eventually follow in the footsteps of Singapore.

"Under the current system, anyone who has lived and worked in Malaysia for between 10 to 12 years is entitled to citizenship.

"Malaysia is also known for being accommodating and welcoming. Just look at the current situation in the country."

Dr Mahathir also took a swipe at the current administration, saying Putrajaya was intent on achieving a developed-nation status at any cost. – July 8, 2014.

- See more at:

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