

Mahathir: We have to be fair

WHY GOVT CAN'T OVERTAX RICH TO AID POOR.



Dr. Mahathir

ALOR STAR, Sat.
— The Government cannot tax the rich too much to help the poor, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed said here today.

"If we do so, the rich will not try to make more money," he pointed out.

"On the other hand, the poor cannot depend too much on the Government for help.

"The Government must be moderate and fair to all."

Dr. Mahathir was speaking at a dialogue session organised by the Kedah Padi Planters' Development Board at Telok Malik, near Jitra.

There was a limit, he said, to the part which

by Chan Beng Soon.

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the Government could play in checking the economic recession.

"The Government cannot print notes like what the Japanese did during the last war," Dr. Mahathir said.

The Government's subsidy plan, he pointed out, had kept the prices of oil and fertilisers low.

Fertile land

The Minister said it was wrong to say that anyone had died of starvation in the country because it was blessed with fertile land and abundant rain.

"To say that we will die of starvation is to be ungrateful to God," he said.

Touching on the Green Book plan, Dr. Mahathir said it was aimed at

making the people in the country richer.

The people were expected to provide their own needs and, thereby, spend less. In this way, the Government would import less foodstuff and save in foreign exchange.

The Minister advised the people to plant chillies. Special seeds could be obtained from

Mardi. The country, he said, welcomed people who would comply with rules and regulations, and not those who would resort to demonstrations to solve their problems.

Anyone dissatisfied with anything should submit a petition to the Government and seek a dialogue session.

Demonstrations would only create more problems instead of solving them, he said.

Dr. Mahathir also advised the people not to voice their grievances in coffee shops but to raise them at dialogue sessions.