

# Mahathir: Why we cannot tax the rich too much

**A**LOR STAR, Sat. — The Government cannot tax the rich too much in order to continue helping the poor, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said here today.

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

"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.

He said there was a limit to the part the Government could play in checking the economic recession.

"The government cannot print notes like what the Japanese did during the last war," he added.

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

In a reference to the recent controversy over Baling, Dr. Mahathir said it was wrong to say that anyone had died of starvation in Malaysia because God had blessed the country with fertile land and abundant rain.

"To say that we will

die from starvation is to be ungrateful to God," he said.

Touching on the Green Book plan, he 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 thereby save in foreign exchange.

Dr. Mahathir advised the people to plant chillies for which special seeds could be obtained from Mardi.

Malaysia, he said, welcomed people who would keep to 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 ask for a dialogue session.

Demonstrations would result in creating more problems, rather than solving them.

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