

# Pessimists, critics to blame—PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Critics and pessimists — they are one reason why part of the Government's efforts to help improve the livelihood of rubber smallholders fail.

This attribution came from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today who said these people or "garbage of society" as he called them, would find all the negative sides to any of the Government's actions.

When tax on cameras was abolished, they said

it was not beneficial because cameras could not be eaten; when the country went metric, they said the Government wanted to make it easier for the Chinese to cheat the Muslims.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir cited these examples of the cynicism of the "society garbage" when he opened a seminar of the Risda development projects, lasting till Feb. 8.

He urged the people not to listen to critical and cynical talk, especially near election time,

pointing to their hypocrisy — while they criticised building of roads in rural areas, they too were the users of the roads!

## Other jobs

He also called on rubber smallholders to take up part-time work to supplement their incomes.

"You have a lot of time after tapping your rubber trees and should spend it on other jobs to increase incomes," he said.

"If you don't know what to do, seek the advice of Risda officers who

are there to help you."

However, he warned, there would always be "devils" who would try to influence the smallholder from seeking part-time work and improving their lives.

To this, he said: "Discipline yourselves, fight these devils."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also stressed the importance of achieving a balance between spiritual and material life.

It was not Islamic, he

said, to concentrate only on the spiritual aspect of life and forgetting the material things — besides, it would only spell disaster for Muslims if they did not adhere to the requirements of Islam.

They should look upon hard work and desire to better their lives as part of the religion's requirements.

With these positive values and a balance between spiritual and material matters, as well as the help of Risda officers who should provide dynamic leadership, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was sure that further progress could be brought to the rural sector.

He also hoped that the Rubber Smallholders' Development Centres established throughout the country could be the focal point of both spiritual and material change in the rural areas.

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