

Take any job, PM tells idle youths

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ALUR SETAR, Sun. — The Prime Minister today urged unemployed youths to take up whatever jobs that come their way while waiting for better prospects.

He said by remaining idle, they are a burden to their families. At the same time, illegal immigrants enter the country to take up the abundant jobs shunned by the youths.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it

is a sad irony that many of the youths who have migrated to the urban centres in search of jobs are still unemployed.

Jobs, especially in the construction industry, he said, were many but because local youths were not prepared to take them up, foreign labour had to be used.

The Prime Minister hoped local youths would take up whatever jobs available in the country and face the challenges to improve their future.

He was speaking after

breaking fast with about 500 people at the mosque in Kampung Tanjung near Jitra last night. Also present was Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasman.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded the people to be thrifty and wise in their spending under the current economic conditions.

He said though the country was facing economic slowdown, the people should be grateful as they were still very lucky compared with "four million people who are dying

of starvation in many countries in the world".

"Such unfortunate events should create consciousness in our hearts," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also MP for Kubang Pasu.

This was the second time the Prime Minister and his wife returned to break fast in his constituency this year. On June 25, they broke fast at the mosque in Hosba, about 32km from here.

Tighten belt

He said the people, apart from being grateful, should also not complain all the time if their requests for projects and facilities were not met.

He believed the people were aware the Government had to control its expenditure under the economic slowdown to ensure a better future.

"When the situation permits, we will carry out the projects we have planned," he added.

He warned the people of the adverse effects if the Government were to spend indiscriminately under the current situation.

"Let us tighten our belt a bit now so that we can live a better life in future," he added.

The Prime Minister called on Muslims to strengthen their relationship and uplift their code of discipline as required by Islam.

He said the fasting month had taught them to be patient and hoped it would be a lesson in their