

Wealth comes with hard work: Mahathir

NIBONG TEBAL, Sat — The people must find ways to turn the fertile environment into sources of wealth, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said when he visited an integrated land development scheme in Sungai Chenaam today.

"We must constantly improvise and come up with ideas of how best to exploit our environment and rich natural resources," the Prime Minister told 5,000 people.

"We can never achieve anything if we just sit and stare, feeling sorry for ourselves," he added.

"In the fight against poverty, government allocations are limited by what it can offer which is not enough. We cannot make everyone a millionaire. The Government can only provide some financial aid and guidance. It is up to the people to work hard to improve their lot," he said.

"Certain countries with less favourable environments have become wealthier than those blessed with fertile land because of the people's innovativeness. They may have only stones everywhere but they used them to construct buildings as well as carving and polishing them to be sold as decorative items at hefty prices," Dr Mahathir said.

Likewise, he added, Malaysians could come up with their own ideas of exploiting environmental resources for an improved living standard.

Dr Mahathir also said the world would look down on us unless we were self-reliant and proved we could be as innovative and progressive as anyone else.

The Prime Minister and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah returned to Kuala Lumpur this evening.

They left on an RMAF Fokker-28 aircraft from the Mata Kuching air base in Butterworth at 6.20p.m.

They were seen off by Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu, Education Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Agriculture Minister Anwar Ibrahim and other dignitaries.