

# Small industries for rural folk

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IPOH, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants a national campaign aimed at getting rural folk to set up small industries to supplement their income.

He said rural folk could spend their spare time running these industries.

He told a gathering of about 6,000 villagers at the padi estate at Kampung Bukit Chawi, Seberang Perak, that small industries could be set up with very little funds.

They could make use of products found locally, like padi, wood or sand.

He said he had directed the Ministry of National and Rural Development to look into the matter and to conduct a drive to advise rural folk on how they could set up small industries.

The Prime Minister also urged the rural folk to accept the planned kampung concept. If houses and kampungs are grouped instead of

being scattered it would be much easier for the Government to provide infrastructure and other facilities.

Dr Mahathir said the padi estate project is another Government programme which will directly benefit the people.

As it is being run on commercial lines, productivity will be better than in individual padi fields. Efficient marketing and use of machines will be possible because the estate can share the facilities — something which will be prohibitive for individual padi fields.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by National and Rural Development Minister Datuk Sanusi Junid and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib spent nearly an hour trudging through the padi fields and inspecting several parts of the estates.

They were shown around by Deputy Pri-

mary Industries Minister Megat Junid bin Megat Ayob, who is MP for Pasir Salak, and chairman of the project's standing committee.

Officials of the Syarikat Alinan Juru Konsul, a bumiputera company undertaking the project, also briefed Dr Mahathir on the progress of the padi estate.

The project is one of the programmes initiated by the Government to raise the living standards of padi farmers. The success of the project will lead to the opening of more padi estates in the country.

The project was inspired by the Prime Minister three years ago. The area being developed covers about 1,112 hectares of padi land that have been left idle by the 507 owners. The project provides for the provision of infrastructure and the setting up of a model kampung.

The company has been given a 10-year period to develop the land.