

Accept— new concept, villagers advised

JERANTUT, Fri. —
The village reorganisa-
tion concept calls
for sacrifice on the
part of the people, Da-
tuk Seri Dr Mahathir
Mohamad said today.

The residents in-
volved in the reorganisa-
tion of kampungs should
be prepared to sacrifice
their former homes and
land and move to the
area chosen to be devel-
oped into a growth
centre under the concept.

"Unless villagers are
prepared for this sacri-
fice, the village reorganisa-
tion concept will be a
failure."

He was opening a vil-
lage reorganisation pro-
gramme and handicraft
workshop at Kampung
Pasir Durian, about 50km
from here.

There is considerable
disparity in the provision
of basic infrastructure
like electricity, water
and roads between urban
and rural areas.

The reason is simply
that the cost of providing
such infrastructure to
people living in towns is
much cheaper as resi-
dents live closer to-
gether.

"Providing basic in-
frastructure facilities to

remote scattered villages
and traditional kam-
pungs costs a lot of
money as villagers live
far from one another."

As funds are limited,
the Government is not in
a position to provide ba-
sic infrastructure to all
the villages in rural
areas, much as it would
like to.

But by re-organising
scattered villages and
traditional kampungs
into growth centres, it
will be easier and
cheaper for the Gov-
ernment to provide such
facilities.

Resources

The livelihood of resi-
dents in such re-organ-
ised kampungs will also
improve as they can go
into business and engage
in cottage industries.

"The greater popula-
tion in re-organised kam-
pungs will also serve to
boost their socio-econo-
mic position."

Malaysia, unlike many
other countries, is en-
dowed with rich natural
resources.

"But what is needed are
people who are self-re-
liant and willing to work
hard to exploit the rich
natural resources for
their betterment."

People in re-organised
kampungs can make use
of locally available re-
sources such as clay, rat-
tan, bamboo, sand, cera-
mic and other raw
materials to manufac-
ture handicraft through
cottage industries.

"But the entrepreneurs
should not only use tradi-
tional methods but strive
to use simple machinery
to mass produce their
handicraft to meet a
growing demand."