

Switch to other activities, Felda settlers urged

TROLAK, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Felda settlers to switch to other activities that may bring them more side income as the slump in palm oil prices has affected their livelihood.

He also urged the settlers to work diligently to cut the cost of palm oil production, which was at \$480 per tonne compared to its market price of \$420 per tonne.

The Prime Minister was addressing a *muhibbah* and unity gathering at the Felda Trolak land scheme, which was attended by about 2,000 settlers.

Dr Mahathir hoped to see the settlers involved in fish farming and sheep rearing, and handicraft which are easily market-

ed.

In the case of small industries and handicraft, various Government agencies were willing to help interested parties produce quality goods.

The Prime Minister assured the settlers that the Government was taking steps to find new markets for palm oil even though price undercutting by other producers often hampered this.

The Prime Minister also warned the settlers to be on the lookout for members of certain opposition parties who were out to capitalise on the present economic slowdown which had affected the earnings of Felda settlers.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib, opened an Umno Youth course at the land development institute here.