

# PM: Do not blame Govt for slowdown

KAMPAR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed called on the people not to blame the Government for the effects of the economic slowdown in the country.

He said what was happening was beyond the control of the Government and the country.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a 8,000-strong rally in Mambang Diawan New Village near Kampar.

He urged the people to work harder, be more disciplined and not stage demonstrations and boycotts.

He said Malaysia was experiencing an economic slowdown basically because it was finding it difficult to sell its produce overseas due to poor demand.

"We should use the present period to consolidate our efforts and help the country to ease the difficulties faced by the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said new villages in the country would not be neglected by the Government in its efforts to further develop the country.

He said the infrastructure in new villages would be improved under the Fifth Malaysia Plan to ensure the quality of life there would be at par with that in the urban areas.

He said more polyclinics would be built to improve the health of people living in new villages.

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By **SOON BOON PHIN**

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Dr Mahathir said the State Government would allow new villagers to own their housing lots while the Federal Government would improve the infrastructure.

He said the Government was doing this because it was aware of their plight.

The Prime Minister was cheered when he gave his personal undertaking that the Government would set up a polyclinic in Mambang Diawan, saying he would not dare to show up again if it was not set up soon.

He called on the villagers to help the Government by setting up small businesses and industries to provide village youth with jobs.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib said the State Government had approved the granting of 1,422 housing lots out of a total 1,622 lots in new villages.

He said 200 other applications were under consideration.

He also said the State Government had approved the allocation of 20 hectares of land to the private sector for development and hoped it would build factories and low cost houses for the benefit of the people.