

Adapt to changes, Dr M tells people

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KOTA BARU, Fri.—
The people must be ready to face the challenges and adapt to the changes around them if they were to progress with the times, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We must make and institutionalise changes in the way we do things in order not to be left behind and also to improve our standard of living," he told a gathering of more than 5,000 people at the Mulong Lating integrated agricultural project near here.

"We cannot expect to remain the same forever," he said, adding that the people could not afford to isolate themselves from their surroundings, nor the various development projects.

This need to adapt was especially true with

methods of agricultural production, particularly in padi farming.

"Buffaloes and single yield seasons are no longer sufficient to improve the income of the people. We must utilise modern methods and progress to using machinery to increase our padi yields and, therefore, our income," he said.

The Prime Minister, on the second day of his visit to Kelantan in his nationwide tour, said the people of the State were especially in need of modernisation as they had been backward for too long under the previous Pas administration.

He commended the diligence of the Kelantan people but added that the willingness to change one's lifestyle and practices must be instilled in everyone to ensure the success of development projects.

He underlined the necessity of improving the standard of living of the people as a means of giving them a sense of dignity: "We don't want to be looked down upon because we are poor."

On the proper planning of villages, the Prime Minister said this was essential in order to pro-

➔ TURN TO P2. COL 6

It is a sin not to work — PM

29 MAR 1986

★ FROM PAGE ONE

vide the people with the basic infrastructure, such as water and electricity.

"It is very difficult for the Government to provide water and electricity if the houses in the villages are scattered all over the place," he said.

Dr Mahathir congratulated the Kelantan Agricultural Development Authority (KADA) and the participants of the Mulong Lating project on their success.

The integrated padi farming project has enabled the farmers to increase their yields from an estimated three tons to seven tons per hectare.

He described the efficient utilisation of land as part of the Islamic way of life.

"What we are doing, developing the means at our disposal, is in accordance with the Quran," he said, providing a reminder that God would not help His believers nor change their lives for them unless they did it themselves.

"If we don't work, we are committing a sin; but if we do, we are showing our gratitude and this gratitude will be rewarded."

The Mulong Lating project was just one of the many that the Barisan Nasional Government had planned to help the people, he added.

Indeed, the Barisan Nasional Government was constantly thinking up ways to improve the standard of living of the people and to ensure the nation's continued prosperity.