

# PM told Penans he'll

# help says MP

STAR 1 JUL 1987

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Prime Minister has promised to help Penans in their development plans, the MP for Ulu Rajang, Mr Justine Jinggut said.

He said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told a nine-man Penan delegation on Wednesday that he would provide the necessary socio-economic aid to improve their standard of living.

Dr Mahathir also said he would visit them in Sarawak, Mr Jinggut said.

The delegation left for home this morning.

The Penans told reporters at a Press conference last night that they were impressed with the Felda land scheme they had visited in Trolak, Perak, earlier in the day.

They said they wanted the type of lifestyle and progress the scheme provided, in particular the schools, clinics and proper homes.

They said they supported logging because it meant money, development and a chance to achieve a better life.

"They have seen many things in Kuala Lumpur and they want development for their tribes," he said.

Mr Jinggut also translated for the group, who could only speak the Penan language.

Jarang Matu, 50, of Lesung Belaga, said: "Our people need land schemes and plantations to improve our standard of living."

Mr Jinggut said the Penan chiefs represented the Penans in their own area, who are settled, and have no contact with the nomadic Penans in the Baram district.

"They are speaking for themselves when they support logging and development, just as the Penans in the Baram area can only speak for themselves when they ask for logging to be stopped," said Mr Jinggut.

Jahih Lating, a Penan from Long Urun, said about 100 to 200 of his people were working for a timber company.

He said his tribe had received \$2,000 in compensation for the road the loggers built across their land.