

COMMUNIST THREAT STILL REMAINS: DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned today that communist terrorists were still a threat to the nation although the situation was not as grave as in the 50s and 60s.

"It is best that everybody be vigilant to this threat at all times," he said when opening the Orang Asli Museum at Gombak.

Dr Mahathir said the orang asli in the interior of the country had in the past been among the Government's main informers of terrorists' whereabouts.

He hoped they would continue to help the security forces wipe out terrorists.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was trying its best to bring the community into the mainstream of progress, and would continue improving facilities for them.

Government efforts would include providing them with better health and medical amenities and educational facilities, and getting more of them to join Felda and other land schemes, he added.

Under the Fifth Malaysia Plan, \$40 million was allocated for orang asli development, including the setting up of six new resettlements for about 1,000 families, Dr Mahathir said.

He said that two hostels, costing \$1.2 million each would also be built in Raub in Pahang and Bukit Lanjan in Selangor.

The orang asli hospital in Gombak would be improved with the addition of new equipment costing about \$3.3 million, he added.

"Where the community is small, they will be encouraged to join Felda schemes rather than be placed in resettlement schemes."

The Prime Minister said that under the Fourth Malaysia Plan five orang asli regrouping projects involving 23,000 people were implemented along the Titiwangsa Range.

A total of 13,600 hectares had been divided among the regrouped community.

"The Government hopes the orang asli community will experience rapid and orderly socio-economic development and accept such development well," he said.

Dr Mahathir also handed over appointment letters to 12 orang asli headmen and penghulus.

Culture and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabaruddin Chik, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar were among those present.