

# Industrial policy change to benefit villagers

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Government has changed its industrial policy to give consideration to kampung industries because they not only have potential but would increase villagers' incomes, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said that building factories in kampungs is a new idea as previously factories were mainly located in urban areas where infrastructural facilities are easily available.

The Government is giving encouragement to the private sector to set up factories in kampungs as a means to raise the incomes of villagers.

Speaking at the opening of the Narspro rubber glove factory at Paya Pahlawan, Mukim Binjal, Kubang Pasu, he said the Government will upgrade kampungs to make them more organised.

He was referring to handicraft industries in the villages which at present were not organised systematically.

"Supply is not regular because the industry is managed on a part-time basis. The goods are not consistent in quality."

Dr Mahathir said kampung industries carried out on an individual and part-time basis were no longer suitable.

"Although there is a large market, it cannot be fully exploited because of this factor. Instead, these industries should be properly managed along the lines of a factory with proper work schedules and budgets," he said.

The Prime Minister said setting up industries in kampungs is easily done as they do not need much capital or large premises.

"We will provide managers who can advise the owners. For instance, one manager can serve 10 factories. Among other things, they can advise the owners how to minimise operational costs.

"The Government can also provide capital, training and other facilities. However, the success of these industries depends on managers who are efficient, honest and diligent," he said.

Also present were Land Regional Development Minister, Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud, his Deputy Datuk Haji Khalid Yunus, Kedah Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Haji Osman Haji Aroff and Risa chairman Mohamed Noh Rajab.