

Felda settlers warned of moves to disunite them

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By K.H. LIM

KUALA KUBU BARU, Mon. — Felda settlers should be wary of those who try to disunite them, the Prime Minister said today.

In cautioning them against these groups, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said if they succeeded in influencing the settlers, it would be the settlers themselves who would lose in the end.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to settlers at Felda Gedangsa, Ulu Bernam, during his one-day working visit to Hulu Selangor District.

"Be careful of these people. Don't allow them to turn you against the Government.

"We shouldn't let their bad influence get into Felda so that we can avoid having Felda split into 'Felda A' and 'Felda B'.

"We want the entire Felda family to be 'Felda A'. We should not allow even a little bit of 'B' here."

Sheep project

He reminded the settlers of the importance of unity and was glad to note that the multi-racial settler community in Felda Gedangsa has lived in harmony.

On Felda, he said it was a unique success story in land development and reiterated that the Government had the welfare of settlers at heart.

This was especially evident, he added, when the Government decided to give them individual titles to the land in the scheme.

"We are aware of the problem in subdividing the land and this was why the

Government considered the matter for a long time before giving in to the request of settlers."

He attributed the success of Felda schemes to efficient management and the hard work and discipline of settlers.

He later visited the homes of settlers and viewed an exhibition handicraft produced by settlers.

The Prime Minister began his visit with an hour-long briefing at the District Office here.

His second stop was an Orang Asli bamboo workshop where he observed the production of satay skewers from bamboo.

From Felda Gedangsa, Dr Mahathir flew by helicopter to Batang Kali where he joined hundreds of people for lunch.

He then visited an agricultural scheme at Serendah where he launched a "drip irrigation system" and released fish fry into traps as part of a freshwater fish farming project.

He then proceeded to Kampong Sungai Choh, where he was briefed on the progress of an experimental feedlot sheep rearing project.

He also tried his hand at feeding the sheep, observed sheep weighing and watched a demonstration on sheep-shearing.

His last stop for the day was a meeting with Selangor State Government officers at Sungai Choh.

Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Muhammad Haji Mohamed Taib and several State Executive Councillors accompanied the Prime Minister.