

# Be wary of inciting group, Dr M warns Felda settlers

TANJUNG MALIM, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told Felda settlers today to be wary of a group trying to incite them to go against the Government.

He said the group would visit Felda land schemes with the intention of disuniting the settlers.

"They will be coming, so be wary of their bad influence. They will even go to the extent of creating a Felda A and Felda B," he told about 1,500 settlers during a visit to the Felda Gedangsa land scheme, 23km from here.

"This is unhealthy. It will be best if all of us are A; there should not be a B at all," he said.

Dr Mahathir was on a one-day visit to Ulu Selangor, the first stop in his series of visits to various districts throughout the country.

The Prime Minister said the group would not lose anything because their activities were solely for their own interest.

"They need our (settlers) support but if we make the wrong move, we will be the ones to lose and they will live in prosperity and with greater wealth," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here by helicopter from Kuala Kubu Baru, said Felda schemes were created out of the Government's responsibility towards the people and its desire to upgrade their standard of living.

He commended the settlers for supporting the scheme, leading to the opening of 800,000ha of land for cultivation of various crops.

"This is the world's biggest estate," he said.

He said Felda's success not only depended on good management only but also on the settlers' attitude.

"If they (settlers) are patient, follow regulations and work hard, they are

bound to achieve greater success," he said.

"Felda's success today is because the settlers had worked hard and they were now enjoying a better life than before they joined the scheme," he said.

Dr Mahathir also spoke on the Government's decision to revert to individual land titles for the settlers from a share system.

He hoped the settlers would work harder on their land once the system was implemented.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, visited a handicraft centre and a settler's house.

Earlier in Kuala Kubu Baru, Dr Mahathir directed government agencies doing agricultural research to undertake research of major projects.

He said research into minor projects, as was being done now, not only created competition but success was also limited.

He issued the directive after being briefed on the development in Ulu Selangor by District Officer Haji Shafie Ismail at the district office.

Dr Mahathir said Ulu Selangor had potential for agricultural projects, particularly in producing food ingredients such as *lengkuas*, *pandan* leaves and bananas.

These ingredients had a ready market in Kuala Lumpur and the rest of the Klang Valley, he said.

During the 30-minute briefing, Haji Shafie brought up the lack of investments, major projects and development plans in the district which he said was one reason for the migration of youths to the Klang Valley in search of jobs.