

# Settlers urged to disregard bad influence

TEMERLOH, Mon. — Felda settlers were urged not to be influenced by irresponsible elements and turn against the Government.

Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said some settlers were ungrateful although the Government had done a great deal for their betterment.

He said settlers were provided four hectares of land each for cultivating oil palm and rubber and given proper housing under the programme.

"No other country in the world does this and yet some settlers are ungrateful and find fault with the Government," he said.

"But some quarters say that is the duty of any Government to improve the lot of the people. But not all Governments work towards the improvement of the people.

"For instance, when Pas ruled Kelantan for 18 years, people there only became backward. Those in the State who were allocated land were asked to develop it themselves unlike what Felda is doing."

Dr Mahathir said those who had received land in Felda schemes should not

forget their past and be thankful for the improved living standard after becoming settlers.

He said this during a meeting with settlers from Felda Kampung Awah, 20 km from here this evening.

He added Felda settlers should not squander their incomes when commodity prices were high but invest in schemes such as the ASN and ASB.

"By saving when times are good, settlers can weather difficult days when prices of commodities are low," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged settlers to augment their income by planting fruit trees or engaged in making handicraft.

"Pahang is blessed with fertile soil and fruits such as starfruit, oranges, watermelon and guava grown here are tastier than those cultivated in other States," he said.

Dr Mahathir said fruits had great export potential and at present mangoes grown in Perlis were even being sold in Harrods of London.

The Prime Minister later visited a settler's home in the scheme before leaving for Kuala Lumpur by helicopter.