

Dr M: We keep our promises

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JELEBU, Sat. — The Government will implement more development programmes in line with its responsibility to the people who elected it, Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said today.

As much as the Government would like to implement these projects "all at one go" it was not possible because of constraints like finance and manpower.

But they will be carried out on a piece-meal basis, he said when laying the foundation stone for a \$5 million Mardi research station at Triang Hilir here.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional Government always had the welfare of the people at heart especially the poor unlike Governments in some other countries which made promises before the elections but did not implement them.

In this context, he said the people must beware of the Opposition especially Semangat 46 leaders who call for a change in Government.

Like some of the tyrannical Governments in the world, their promises would be difficult to fulfil.

"For example, they go around saying to Felda settlers that if they are in power, the prices of our commodities will be constantly high," he said adding that they claimed that the Government was to blame for the low commodity prices.

"The Government cannot be blamed for the rise or fall of commodity prices as these depend very much on the buyers and demand and supply.

"There are times when the demand from buyer countries

shoots up leading to a price increase.

"When this happens the Semangat 46 leaders, do not go around saying that the Government is responsible for the good prices."

Dr Mahathir urged the people especially Felda settlers to look at such allegations carefully and not be swayed by such talk.

The Prime Minister said the Government opened vast Felda schemes and other projects for the benefit of the poor.

"It cannot be denied that we are one of the most developed countries in the South," he added.

Earlier, on arrival in Jelebu, Dr Mahathir was given a rousing welcome by a large gathering including a 1,000-odd motorcycle escort.