

No lavish spending: Dr M

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compared with US\$16 or US\$17 a barrel before the Iraq invasion of Kuwait.

Datuk Dr Seri Mahathir said Malaysians should learn to be hardworking citizens. They must be grateful for the country's achievement, development and resources and not be a "crying lot" who want the Government to continue feeding them with subsidies.

The Prime Minister said the Felda settlers scheme has drastically raised the standard of living of the poor and the landless until they are now at par with those living in the urban areas.

He said the Government has spent huge

sums of money to clear the jungles, cultivate rubber and oil palm and construct new townships in various land schemes for the benefit of the people.

It has also set up mills and processing centres and even marketed the agricultural produce of the settlers and farmers to boost their earnings.

"Today, the Felda schemes are the best run agricultural settlements in the world and admired by many countries. Many foreign visitors have come to Malaysia to learn how such similar schemes can be established in their countries," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Petro-ringgit will not be spent lavishly: PM

By AZAM ARIS

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia will not spend its petro-ringgit lavishly but instead will manage it according to the needs and pace of the country's development.

The Government will not let the country fall into the same "wealth trap" that has brought financial problems to many oil rich countries, he said.

"Some oil producing countries are noted for their lavish spending and the people have become complacent in their work. Such an attitude if unchecked can lead to a lack of commitment towards development and protection of their countries.

"We have the oil resources and we can increase the government's revenue which can be returned to the people in the form of development projects. We are a rich nation but we have to know how to manage these resources ... If not we can be in trouble," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Speaking at the Settler's Day celebration at Bandar Al Muktafi Billah in Terengganu yesterday, the Prime Minister said the Government is committed in using its petro-ringgit wisely and will not spend them unnecessarily just to win the popular votes from the people.

He said the Government will not emulate some rich oil producers, like Kuwait, which provides a lot of free social services to their people.

"With an easy lifestyle the people will have no urgency, for example, to join the army. When this happens the country will not be able to protect itself. We do not want Malaysia to be in such a position," he said.

Crude oil, petroleum products and liquefied natural gas have been the country's number one foreign exchange earner in the 1980s and are expected to continue to be so in the 1990s.

Exports of these products are estimated to exceed \$10 billion this year. It could be even higher as the price of crude oil has shot up to US\$29 a barrel.

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