

Bekam Rabu traders taken to task

ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri
Dr Mahathir Mohamad
took to task traders at
Pekan Rabu here for their
tidak apa attitude.

Calling himself a "graduate" of Pekan Rabu where he sold *goreng pisang* during the Japanese Occupation, the Prime Minister expressed disappointment at the present state of affairs at the site.

Though the Government had spent a lot to upgrade the old building and built another for the traders' benefit, he said many preferred to do business at the roadside.

Dr Mahathir, who is the **patron** of the Pekan Rabu **Co-operative**, said traders inside the building saw the brisk business outside and also joined in, causing chaos.

The scenario inside the building was also not good, with hems placed haphazardly. Many plans to motivate the traders, such as offering prize money for the cleanest lot, had failed.

"My dream is to turn Pekan Rabu into a supermarket or department store. I have constantly raised Pekan Rabu's development with the **Men**-**tri Besar**, but the attitude of the traders is a big let-down," Dr Mahathir said at a dinner organised by USM undergraduates in honour of Pekan Rabu on Wednesday night.

Dr Mahathir, who flew up from Kuala Lumpur specifically to attend the function, said the traders "should not expect much" from him if they persisted with their present attitude.