

Groups blocking progress, says PM

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Stories by ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM and ZULKIFLI TALIB

HULU LANGAT: The people in the rural areas should reject groups which are trying to hinder development in their **kampungs**, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said that these groups did not really care about the people.

"Their real concern is their political aims," he said at the **Selangor's Kampung Ku** (my village) programme at Pekan Batu 14.

He said that these "instigators" did not care whether the rural people were leading uncomfortable lives.

"We (the Government) want the nation to pro-

gress rapidly so that we can compete with developed nations.

"The Government has no ulterior motives. We just want the people to live comfortably when we become developed," he said.

Present were **Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali**, **Mentri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib**, **Health Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai**, **Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar** and **Selangor state executive councillors**.

Dr Mahathir also called on the rural people to be more receptive to development programmes.

He said that despite all the plans and intentions the government had, it would ultimately be the people who were largely

responsible in seeing that projects in their areas were fully implemented.

He added that the villagers should equip themselves with skills and knowledge to ensure that they would not be left behind in the nation's quest for progress.

"The success of the government's policies will still depend on the people's sincerity," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said the government wanted to ensure that villages would be developed in a proper and orderly manner.

"Villagers should not simply build houses as they like. Sometimes this can result in wasting of land which can be put to good use," he said, adding that it could be a problem for the government to provide basic amenities to them.