

# Be willing to accept change, Dr M tells villagers

By Manan Osman  
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HULU LANGAT, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said villagers must be receptive to change as kampungs were the strength of the nation.

He said efficient administration and effective policies designed for the nation's development would be meaningless if villagers did not involve themselves in the country's development.

Dr Mahathir said it was the Government's aim to ensure that kampungs received as much attention as the urban areas in terms of infrastructure and other development.

The Government wanted to modernise kampungs so that there would not be migration to towns by kampung people.

He said kampung folk must change with time and should not be influenced by people who were out to disrupt the Government's efforts. These people had no desire to see them progress but were merely interested in gaining political mileage.

He assured them the Government had no ulterior motive in wanting them to prosper in line with Vision 2020.

In modernising the kampungs the Government wanted them be developed in a more organised way.

"This will ensure that kampung people enjoy a better quality of life on par with those in the urban areas," he said when launching the Selangor Kampungku programme and the K3P Group at the Kampung Batu 14 padang here today.

He said while the Government strived to modernise the kampungs the villagers too had to play their part to ensure the success of such programmes.

"This includes their determination to utilise idle land and make economic use of it.

"This is not difficult to achieve as what they need is

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# Dr Mahathir: Kampung must reflect

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determination and perseverance," he said.

The Prime Minister said it was pointless for the country to be developed and the people get rich if the kampung folk were left behind.

"The kampungs must reflect the country's progress and this is why the Kampungku programme was launched — to ensure that they have a positive attitude

towards change."

Malaysia, he said, had been able to be vocal in international forums in matters relevant to it and the Third World countries because of the political stability, strong economy and unity among its people.

He said Malaysians were a tolerant and reasonable lot who were determined to see the country industrialised by the year 2020.

"We want to be an indus-

trialised nation because we want to be free to run our own affairs and not to be told what to do by developed nations."

He said it was the country's political system that had enabled the people to express their views freely.

Later, when addressing State Barisan Nasional leaders at the Dusun Tua Youth Training Centre near here, the Prime Minister said the Barisan Nasional was the

best system in the world and could effectively unite the people.

"It is a special organisation which cannot be found anywhere else in the world."

Although the multi-racial coalition was made up of many parties, should any problem occur it would be resolved through negotiations in the spirit of the Barisan.

Earlier on arrival at Ta-

## the country's progress

man Sri Nading about 1km away from the padang, the Prime Minister who was given a rousing welcome took a short bicycle ride accompanied by a few hundred cyclists to the padang.

The pedal power was a symbolic expression of the deep concern the country had for the environment.

After launching the Kampungku programme, Dr Mahathir presented radio and television sets to the K3P

Group of Hulu Langat.

He also went on the air during a short interview with the Shah Alam Radio 3 at its temporary studio near the padang.

The Prime Minister also visited several kampungs during his day-long visit which included Kampung Sungai Tekali, Pansoon and the Sungai Congkak recreational forest.

He also opened the Kem Tunas Nasional at the Sun-

gai Congkak recreational forest.

Among those who accompanied him were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Health Minister

Datuk Lee Kim Sai, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, State Executive Councillors, Assemblymen and government department heads.