

PM: Mill in Gurun will lure others

15 AUG 1992

By PAUL GABRIEL

SUNGAI PETANI: Perwaja Steel's mammoth rolling mill in Gurun will be the "nucleus" of heavy industrial development in Kedah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the mill's downstream activities would attract other industries to the vicinity.

Dr Mahathir disclosed that there were plans to site a petro-chemical industry near the mill, once the Peninsular Gas Utilisation project to connect a gas pipeline from Port Klang to Bukit Kayu Hitam in Kedah was completed.

He said though the Gurun rolling mill was the second heavy industrial plant to operate in Kedah, it had better potential to generate growth compared to the Kedah Cement factory in Langkawi.

"This mill has greater potential to expand and attract other heavy industries here. Our aim is to utilise Gurun for heavy

industries," he told newsmen after touring the mill.

The Prime Minister was earlier briefed by Perwaja managing director Tan Sri Eric Chia on the mill project, and on new developments at Perwaja's Steel Mill in Kemaman.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, Mida chairman Tan Sri Zainal Abidin Sulong, mill general manager Mohamed Yunus Alias and senior state government officials.

Chia said the mill would not cause environmental problems.

He said the company had spent an extra \$4 million to buy "pollution-free" equipment.

The mill, he added, would also have a very high chimney to maintain air quality.

Chia said "all the pollution" would be restricted to the Kemaman Steel Mill.

"We'll be so clean that nobody will even know that there is a furnace inside," he said.