

Work towards targets, PM tells labour force

By PAUL GABRIEL

ALOR STAR: The local workforce must be untiring and aggressive to meet development objectives, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said Malaysian workers were generally not lazy. However, they lacked the spirit compared with their Indone-

sian counterparts.

The Indonesians, he added, impressed him with their never-say-die attitude.

Dr Mahathir said he was told that some Indonesians worked round-the-clock to complete a section of Perwaja's Rolling Mill in Gurun in record time, earning up to \$3,000 a month.

In contrast, most Ma-

laysians were willing to work only in air-conditioned factories.

"We must know that if we are choosy and disinterested, others are always waiting to grab the opportunities.

"Do we have to air-condition construction sites to get our people to take up tough jobs?" he said at a meet-the-people session at the Sekolah Kebang-

saan Guar Napai in Jitra.

Also present was Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff. Guar Napai is the site of one of the oldest Felda settlements. It opened in 1956.

Dr Mahathir, who was given a warm welcome by the schoolchildren and local folk, said the change in the people's attitude towards work was a side-effect of progress.

Citing Felda schemes, he said the vast migration of youths to urban areas in search of better jobs threatened the existence of the settlements.

Dr Mahathir said that due to the shortage of manpower in Felda schemes, the Government had to think of other ways to help rural folk, such as offering shares for investment purposes.