

PM: Maintain high moral values of village culture

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TAPAH: Malaysians should strive to maintain high moral values akin to the village culture and be prepared to work hard in their quest to achieve Vision 2020, said **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad**.

The Prime Minister said it was no use achiev-

ing economic progress when society became decadent as a result.

He said progress in the true sense meant the country achieving industrialised status as well as having values like **neighbourliness**, caring for and sharing with one another and always willing to lend a helping hand to the poor and destitute.

"A developed nation does not mean only being at par with other developed societies but to maintain good moral values like the village culture," he told about 20,000 villagers who attended the state-level **Kampungku** programme here yesterday.

Perak was the third state to hold the pro-

gramme after Selangor last year and Negri Sembilan in 1991.

"The **Kampungku** programme is not asking everyone to stay in villages but to uphold the village culture which is good," he said, adding that although people lived in the city the village culture should be maintained.

Dr Mahathir stressed

the importance of perpetuating the institution of marriage, filial piety and rejecting premarital sex, living together out of wedlock, single parenting and character degradation which was the norm in developed countries.

"The developed nation status that we want to achieve in 27 years' time

is not 100 per cent similar to countries like Japan, the United States and Europe but a nation ready to compete with other countries in all fields while maintaining good human values," he said.

Speaking on the neighbourliness of villages

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Days of villages numbered, says PM

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people, Dr Mahathir said someone had claimed that a child died of starvation in Baling in 1974 but it was found to be untrue because the person who made the claim, who was now a minister, confessed it was false.

"Villagers would not

see their neighbours die of starvation because in the villages they all help one another," he said, adding that their relationships were stronger than those who lived in towns where they did not know who their neighbours were.

Dr Mahathir said the migration phenomenon

was happening and soon villages would be a thing of the past.

He added some villages might be preserved as museums to show the younger generation how their forefathers used to live.

At a state dinner on Wednesday night at the Ipoh Town Hall, Dr Ma-

hathir told about 600 people that racial harmony achieved by the people was much admired by other countries.

He said the people had to continue to be tolerant and to find ways to enrich themselves:

"They should not act in such a way as to destroy the country," he said.