

Come see for yourself, Mahathir tells the West

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KUCHING: The world can rest assured that the forests will remain in Sarawak because it practises selective logging, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Unlike some developed countries, which had cut down their forests and had threatened the very existence of their wildlife, barely six trees per

acre were cut in Sarawak and the rest were allowed to grow for future felling.

Launching *Newsweek International's* special section on Sarawak at the Riverside Majestic Hotel yesterday, he said that much of Sarawak was still forest.

He welcomed foreigners to come to see for themselves and enjoy the natural beauty, instead of instigating the people.

They would find their visits worthwhile, he said,

adding that they could even explore investment opportunities in the state as it had plenty of land and hard-working people.

He hoped that the special edition would help correct the wrong impression Westerners have of Sarawak and encourage them to come and meet its friendly people.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud said the special section had provided an opportunity for Sarawak to intro-

duce itself to the world.

He said Sarawak should be viewed as a state which struggled to pull its people out of poverty and to work together with other states to make Malaysia a developed nation.

Publisher and Asian advertising director of *Newsweek International* for Asia Jennifer Burland said the eight-page special edition covered all important aspects of Sarawak's industries, the tourism opportunities,

and the rich culture.

"It looks at the future of Sarawak, the unique opportunities for investment, and the state's strong position in this booming area of South-East Asia," she said.

The special section will be read by about 3.5 million people in the United States, Europe, Taiwan, South Korea, and other countries.

The third series on Malaysia will appear in October for readers in Europe.