

# PM: Such attitude won't help growth

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today while he sympathised with the minority group in the Kerpan prawn project controversy, their attitude would retard the nation's growth.

"I sympathise with them but sympathy has its limit.

"I think their attitude will not help in the development of the country," he said when asked to comment on

the demonstration by a group of about 40 landowners who opposed the prawn project last Sunday, after opening the Sunrise condominium project today.

The group demanded compensation of RM50,000 for each *relong* (about 0.28 hectare) of land acquired for the project and an alternative housing site.

They also asked to be compensated for losses of

crops and their source of income.

He said it would not be fair for the minority to deny the wishes of the majority. He said they should consider the interest of others who believed that the project would benefit them.

He said in order to maximise returns, small plots of land should be amalgamated.

The villagers could have

been instigated by certain people including lawyers who gave them wrong advice, he added.

The RM60 million prawn project is a joint venture between the Kedah Government, the BinLadin Group of Saudi Arabia and Samak Aquaculture Sdn Bhd, a company formed to represent the interest of landowners and farmers in the Kerpan project area.