

No need for incentives for professionals to return home, says Mahathir

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KULIM, Thurs: There is no need for the government to offer incentives to Malaysian professionals facing hardship abroad because of the global economic slowdown to return home.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today

they should come back because the country and currency are stable and "we do not have trouble here".

"Why must you always talk about giving incentives ... for everything we must give incentives," he said when asked if the government was planning to offer

incentives to Malaysian professionals to return home.

"Why should we give them incentives just because they face hardship elsewhere? If they want to come back, it's only because they are unhappy there."

Mahathir spoke after officiat-

ing the Silterra Malaysia wafer fabrication plant at the Kulim Hi-Tech Park.

Mahathir said the government is willing to stop the intake of foreign workers if locals are willing to work in sectors in which foreign workers are being employed.

He said locals working in the manufacturing sector refused to leave for other sectors although they face retrenchment as the sector is facing a slowdown.

"Although there is a slowdown in the semiconductor industry, its future is still bright," he said.