

# Give orang asli a chance: PM

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**'They need to develop themselves and achieve success'**

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By **Shahriza Embi**

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**PETALING JAYA, Fri:** The orang asli community should be given a chance at developing themselves and achieving success, just like other Malaysians.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today they should develop the skills needed to

improve their lives and learn the trades that can provide them with lucrative income.

"Some people argue that orang asli should be left where they belong and remain poor, homeless and in bad health conditions. They say it's the orang asli's culture," he said.

"The same people who said this also had ancestors who used to live in

caves, but look at them now. Now they are rich and live in luxurious urban homes."

He said the orang asli deserve the same chance.

Mahathir also said the orang asli should be integrated into the various ethnic groups, not be left by themselves.

"It will take some time, but the government will ensure there is enough allo-

cation for the development of orang asli," he said.

He was speaking to the Bukit Lanjan orang asli community before presenting 147 recipients with keys to new houses in Damansara Perdana here.

Present were Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid and Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.