

One Village, One Industry

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concept for rural communities

DEVELOPING rural land in the manner of the Felda scheme is no longer possible with the urgent need to increase the income of farmers and fishermen, so the Government will introduce the "One Village One Industry" concept which involves the development of small industries requiring between 10 and 100 workers.

Dr Mahathir said farmers and fishermen can earn salaries as well as invest in and own these industries which will be professionally managed. The rural community, he said, was capable of earning no less than the urban community.

A new initiative, he added, was being undertaken in Kedah to establish well-planned villages with a conducive environment. Houses will be sold at reasonable prices to locals.

The budget allocation for rural development next year has been increased by 36 per cent to RM2.56

billion, with RM270 million of this allocated for rural roads to complete 111 projects being continued and to implement 289 new projects covering about 673km.

On village roads, RM600 million has been allocated for some 6,000 projects covering 6,000km while RM30 million is for repairing nearly 1,400km of village roads.

On electricity supply, RM300 million is being allocated to implement 730 projects nationwide to benefit 103,000 households while RM250 million is being allocated to implement 700 water projects to benefit about 84,000 households.

RM10.3 million is being provided under the Bakas programme to improve water supply. Thus 90 per cent of rural areas can enjoy electricity and 80 per cent water.