Job seekers refuse to leave villages

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KOTA KINABALU: Unemployment in the country is caused by various reasons, including the refusal of people to leave their own villages to seek jobs, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed said.

"I think the government is addressing this problem ... there are various reasons," he said when asked to comment on the unemployment level in the country.

Speaking to reporters after delivering his keynote address "Leadership in the age of uncertainties - The effect of global events on business" at the closing of the International CEOs Conference 2005 (ICC2005) here yesterday, Mahathir said miss match of human resource to jobs is also one of the contributing factors.

"From what I hear, among (the reasons) is the miss match in terms of what they (job seekers) are qualified to do and what the industries want," he said.

It is also sometimes due to their poor command in English, he said and added there are also instances where people do not want to leave their own kampungs.

"There are many problems. I think the government is trying to find a solution," he stressed.

On the ICC2005, Mahathir said he was very impressed with the event, especially with the attendance which included about 200 foreign delegates.

This shows a great deal of interest in Sabah and of course Malaysia, he said and was of the opinion that conferences like the ICC2005 should be organised in other places in the country and not concentrated only in Kuala Lumpur.

YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA