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**Mahathir:**

# **There's money in food processing**

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MALACCA, Saturday.

**DR. MAHATHIR** Mohamed called today for greater efforts to exploit the vast potential of agro-based industries particularly in food processing.

Such industries which would most likely be set up in the rural areas where there were raw materials and land, would encourage the growth of development centres, he added.

The processing and canning of food will play an important role among industries in such areas.

Dr. Mahathir said the Third Malaysia Plan period would see a faster growth of development centres, particularly in the less developed states.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also chairman of Food Industries of Malaysia (Fima), was speaking at the opening of Kotak Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. in the Ayer Keroh Industrial Estate here by the Governor, Tan Sri Syed Zahiruddin bin Syed Hassan.

The carton-making company is a joint venture between the Malacca State Economic Development Corporation and Fima.

The company has a paid-up capital of \$2 million and employs 100 workers, 70 per cent of whom are bumiputras from nearby kampungs.

“The Government hopes to sell the shares of these industries and hand over the management to the people when they are viable,” he added.

Chief Minister Haji Abdul Ghani Ali called for the co-operation of all to achieve the objectives of the New Economic Policy.

Government officers must be sincere and fair in implementing the various projects, he added.

## **More active**

Dr. Mahathir said Fima would be more active in the next five years. It had already drawn up several new projects and would welcome the participation and co-operation of the private sector.

He said it was up to the people to use their ingenuity and skill to exploit the potential in agro-based industries.

Dr. Mahathir said Fima, as tool for national development, should ensure that Government money was properly used.

The Government's participation in industry, he added, was to accelerate the pace of industrialisation and provide jobs, particularly for the rural unemployed.