

MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT
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SIK, FEB. 26 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS DIRECTED THE KEDAH AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A STUDY TO LOOK INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF CULTIVATING ONIONS ON A LARGE SCALE IN THE STATE.

HE SAID THAT RESEARCH HAD SHOWN THAT ONIONS COULD BE PLANTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS PLANT THE CROP ON A TRIAL BASIS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A BRIEFING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIK DISTRICT BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, ENCIK MOHAMAD NOR DIN, HERE TODAY.

IN ADDITION, IT WOULD ALSO ENSURE CONSTANT SUPPLY OF ONIONS AND STABILISE THE PRICE, HE ADDED. — BERNAMA MORE 1751/ZCM

MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 2 SIK

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO URGED THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO PLAY A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE TO IMPROVE THE LIVING STANDARD OF THE FARMERS IN THE STATE.

THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD REVIEW LAND UTILISATION, PARTICULARLY IN KAMPUNG AREAS, TO ENSURE THAT THE LAND WERE UTILISED FULLY.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF KAMPUNG LAND THAT HAD NOT BEEN UTILISED AT ALL BY THE OWNERS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN SIK THERE WERE 15,434 ACRES OF KAMPUNG LAND OCCUPIED BY 7,918 FAMILIES TOTALLING 42,198 PERSONS.

A LOT OF THE LAND HAD NOT BEEN UTILISED AND THIS SITUATION SHOULD BE REMEDIED IMMEDIATELY TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. — BERNAMA MORE 1753/ZCM

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MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 3 SIK

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SELECT SEVERAL KAMPUNGS AND SHOW TO THE VILLAGERS HOW THEY COULD OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INCOME THROUGH UTILISATION OF THE LAND.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE STATE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD ENSURE THAT AGRICULTURE OFFICERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE PLAYED THEIR ROLES MORE EFFECTIVELY SO THAT ALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WERE IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE FOOD INDUSTRIES OF MALAYSIA (FIMA), SAID THAT IT WOULD CARRY OUT A PILOT PROJECT ON THE CULTIVATION OF PADI ON AN ESTATE BASIS WITH THE USE OF MODERN MACHINES ON PART OF THE 2,000-ACRE AREA ALLOCATED TO IT IN SUNGAI SEMIAR NEAR HERE.

IF THIS RESULTED IN GREATER YIELDS THAN THE PRESENT METHOD EMPLOYED BY THE FARMERS, THE PROJECT WOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO THEM, HE ADDED. — BERNAMA MORE 1757/ZCM

MAHATHIR-DEVELOPMENT 4 SIK

ON OTHER PARTS OF THE ALLOCATED LAND, FIMA WOULD CARRY OUT CULTIVATION OF FRUITS SUCH AS MANGO, RAMBUTAN AND DURIAN.

SO FAR, ABOUT 500 ACRES HAD BEEN CLEARED FOR CULTIVATION OF FRUITS. — BERNAMA 1800/ZCM

132