

MAHATHIR - COUPON 'a'a'a'
BM

ALOR STAR, MARCH 9 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUPON SUBSIDY SYSTEM FOR PADI FARMERS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATUK HAJI ABDUL MANAN OTHMAN WOULD MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE AMENDMENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS OF THE AMENDMENT BUT HINTED THAT IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR FARMERS TO OBTAIN CASH FOR THEIR COUPONS.

THE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION AT KOBAR NEAR BERE HAD APPEALED TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER REVIEWING THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTING THE COUPON SUBSIDY SYSTEM.

ITS CHAIRMAN, HAJI ABDUL RASHID BIN HAJI AHMAD, SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT RELAX THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW PADI FARMERS WITH SMALL PLOTS TO OBTAIN THE SUBSIDY IN CASH. —BERNAMA MORE 1612/MD

NO42 (F)
MAHATHIR-COUPON 2 ALOR STAR 'a'a'a'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE VIEWS FORWARDED BY HAJI ABDUL RASHID, WHO WAS REPRESENTING PADI FARMERS, WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER IGNORED THE VIEWS AND APPEALS MADE BY FARMERS.

IN FACT, IT WELCOMED SUCH VIEWS IN THE PLANNING OF VARIOUS PROGRAMMES TO HELP FARMERS.

HOWEVER, IF THE FARMERS ADOPTED AN IRRESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE BY DOING SUCH THINGS AS BREAKING THE WINDOWS OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS TO BACK THEIR CLAIMS, THEY THEMSELVES WOULD STAND TO LOSE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. —BERNAMA 1614/MD