

MAHATHIR - FARMERS
BM

TANJUNG KARANG, SEPT. 26 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT AND INCENTIVES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SET UP AGRO-BASED FACTORIES TO PRODUCE INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS FOR THE BIGGER INDUSTRIES, (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONDUCT SPECIFIC COURSES FOR FARMERS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP SMALL PRIVATE FACTORIES TO PROCESS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE PLANNED CAREFULLY SO AS TO SUIT THE MANPOWER NEEDS AND THE DOMESTIC MARKET SAID WHEN LAUNCHING NATIONAL FARMERS DAY CELEBRATIONS HERE.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS IS 'PROGRESSIVE FARMER — THE BASIS OF MODERN AGRICULTURE.'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ADOPT AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH SO THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIVELIHOOD NEEDS OF FARMERS WOULD BE GIVEN PROPER ATTENTION. —BERNAMA MORE 1619/AH

N053 (F)
MAHATHIR - FARMERS 2 TANJUNG KARANG

TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED SHOULD ALWAYS BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS AND SITUATION OF THE FARMERS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO MAKE MODERN AGRICULTURE THE BASIS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SO THAT THE CURRENT POVERTY RATE OF 46.1 PER CENT AMONG THE RURAL PEOPLE COULD BE FURTHER REDUCED.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IN FUTURE GIVE PRIORITY TO THE COLLECTIVE AGRICULTURE APPROACH TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF NON-PROFITABLE SMALL FARMS AND PADI FIELDS.

ON THE INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD INVOLVE AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES CO-ORDINATING THEIR ACTIVITIES, HE SAID THE PROGRAMME HAD BEEN SEEN TO PRODUCE ENCOURAGING RESULTS AMONG FARMERS.

REGARDING THE ROLE THAT NEED TO BE PLAYED BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THEM TO INTENSIFY THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO HELP ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE LOT OF FARMERS. —BERNAMA MORE 1604/AH

N054 (F)
MAHATHIR - FARMERS 3 TANJUNG KARANG

HE ALSO URGED FARMERS TO ORGANISE THEMSELVES AND CO-OPERATE IN MAINTAINING THE CANALS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN THEIR AREAS.

ALL THIS WHILE, HE SAID, THE MAINTENANCE OF CANALS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, CUTTING OF GRASS AND REPAIRING OF BUNDS WERE CARRIED OUT BY CONTRACTORS AND THIS INVOLVED HIGH COSTS.

HE SAID THAT BY DOING SUCH WORK THEMSELVES, THE FARMERS COULD SAVE UP ON THE COST OF HIRING CONTRACTORS.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK ABDUL MANAN OTHMAN HIT OUT AT GROUPS THAT BELITTLED THE ABILITY AND ACTIVITIES OF FARMERS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE STRESSED THAT THERE WERE NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNERS WHO LOOKED UPON FARMERS AS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS AND MODERN INDUSTRIAL ENTREPRENEURS WHO CONSIDERED THEM AS USELESS GROUPS IN DEVELOPMENT. —BERNAMA MORE 1627/AH

NO55 (F)
MAHATHIR - FARMERS 4 TANJUNG KARANG

HE URGED SUCH PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR COLONIALISTIC
ATTITUDE.

MORE THAN 7,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE CEREMONY,
INCLUDING DATIN SERI DR
SITI HASMAH, SELANGOR MENTRI BESAR DATUK HAJI HORMAT RAFIE,
MINISTERS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS. --BERNAMA 1629/AH