

MAHATHIR-RURAL  
BM

BAGAN DATOH, OCT. 11<sup>8/1</sup> (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENCOURAGE MORE RURAL DWELLERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SMALL INDUSTRIES IN THE RURAL AREAS AS ONE STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING, PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

AT THE SAME TIME THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO HELP CERTAIN SECTORS LIKE FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO ABOUT 4,000 PEOPLE IN SUNGAI SUMUN, 16 KM FROM HERE, HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT MAKE THEM RICH DIRECTLY.

THE BEST WAY TO HELP THEM WAS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS THEMSELVES, HE SAID.

HE ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY FARMERS, MUST BE WILLING TO CHANGE THEIR OLD METHODS TO MODERN ONES AND USE MORE PRODUCTIVE PLANTING MATERIAL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THEN REMINDED THOSE WHO HAD BENEFITED FROM NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO THINK OF THE PLIGHT FACED BY THOSE WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1520/LK

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MAHATHIR-RURAL 2 BAGAN DATOH

HE HOPED THE FORTUNATE GROUP WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO ASK FOR MORE BENEFITS BUT INSTEAD GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE WHO STILL LAGGED BEHIND.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THEN OPENED THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PERSATUAN AMAL MAARUF -- A WELFARE ORGANISATION HERE.

IN HIS SPEECH HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALL WELFARE BODIES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE HOPED THE ORGANISATION WOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN ITS ACTIVITIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ON A ONE-DAY VISIT HERE, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATIN SERI SITI HASMAH. -- BERNAMA 1523/LK