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MAHATHIR-LAND
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GUA MUSANG, FEB. 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY ALL NEW LAND SCHEMES IN THE COUNTRY FOLLOW THE SYSTEM USED IN THE KELANTAN SELATAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (KESADAR) LAND SCHEMES.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, THE SETTLERS WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SCHEME RIGHT FROM THE START, INCLUDING CLEARING THE LAND, BUILDING HOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS, UNTIL THE LAND IS PLANTED AND MAINTAINED, HE ADDED.

THE SETTLERS WOULD BE PAID WAGES AND BE PROVIDED WITH EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL FOR THEIR WORK, HE TOLD SETTLERS OF THE KESEDAR JERAM TEKOH LAND SCHEME, 16 KM FROM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT SETTLERS OF THE NEW SCHEMES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE REGULATIONS ON DISCIPLINE TO ENSURE THAT ALL WORK WAS CARRIED OUT PROPERLY AND SMOOTHLY.

HE ADDED THAT THE REQUIREMENT ON DISCIPLINE WAS NOT AIMED AT RESTRICTING THE SETTLERS BUT ONLY TO INSTIL THE SPIRIT FOR HARD WORK.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ADOPT THE KESADAR SYSTEM WOULD SAVE COSTS AS THE MONEY WOULD BE PAID TO SETTLERS AND NOT CONTRACTORS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1550/A1

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HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS NOT MEANT TO DENY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRACTORS AS THEY COULD STILL OBTAIN WORK IN OTHER SECTORS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DECISION SHOWED THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGH APPRECIATION FOR THE HARD WORKING SPIRIT AND ABILITY OF THE SETTLERS TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT.

HE PRAISED THE SETTLERS FOR THEIR HIGH SPIRIT WHICH SYMBOLISED THE WILLINGNESS, ABILITY AND DETERMINATION OF MALAYSIANS TO STRIVE FOR PROGRESS.

EARLIER, KESEDAR GENERAL MANAGER, ENCIK ARIFFIN SAID, WHO GAVE A BRIEFING TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, SAID TO-DATE EIGHT SCHEMES COVERING 8,000 HECTARES WITH 2,819 SETTLERS HAD BEEN OPENED IN THE KELANTAN SELATAN REGION.

ALSO PRESENT WERE THE MENTRI BESAR, DATUK HAJI MOHD. YAACOB, FINANCE MINISTER, TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN. -- BERNAMA 1553/A1