

MAHATHIR-FISHERMEN

BM

BY ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

SUNGAI PETANI, MARCH 27 ⁸² (BERNAMA) ^(P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD GAVE AN ASSURANCE TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALWAYS GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE POOR SUCH AS FISHERMEN AND FARMERS.

HE SAID THAT VARIOUS KINDS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROJECTS HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR FISHERMEN AND FARMERS IN THE GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO RAISE THEIR LIVELIHOOD AS PART OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

SPEAKING AT THE FOUNDATION STONE-LAYING CEREMONY OF THE FISHERMEN'S RESETTLEMENT PROJECT AT TANJUNG DAWAI, ABOUT 30 KM FROM HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT EVERY ASSISTANCE AND PROJECT WOULD BE A WASTE IF THE FISHERMEN THEMSELVES WERE NOT PREPARED TO WORK HARD.

HE SAID THERE WERE NUMEROUS WAYS FOR FISHERMEN TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN LOT, INCLUDING ADOPTING MODERN METHODS OF FISHING AND REARING.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO ASSURED THAT THE SUBSIDY PROGRAMME FOR FISHERMEN SUCH AS FOR OUTBOARD MOTORS AS WELL AS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEIR CHILDREN WOULD CONTINUE.

--BERNAMA MORE 1825/HM

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COUNTRY HAD NUMEROUS EXPERTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WHO COULD ASSIST FISHERMEN IN IMPROVING THEIR LOT.

+HOWEVER, NO KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PUT THEM INTO USE,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN ORDER TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE PROGRESS SINCE MERDEKA WAS UNDREAMED OF UNDER COLONIAL RULE.

EARLIER, AT A GATHERING AT PANTAI MERDEKA NEARBY, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S LOOK EAST POLICY TO TRAIN MANPOWER WAS AIMED AT ACQUIRING NEW WORK ETHICS FOR THE PEOPLE.

--BERNAMA MORE 1842/HM

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ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE WEST ALL THIS WHILE NOT ONLY DID NOT BENEFIT THE COUNTRY BUT WAS ALSO NOT SUITABLE WITH MALAYSIA'S NEEDS BECAUSE THE WESTERN WAY OF LIFE ITSELF WAS NO LONGER SUITABLE FOR THE PRESENT PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID. THE POLICY, HE SAID, WAS ALSO MEANT TO CORRECT THE IMBALANCE IN THE NUMBER OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS OVERSEAS WHERE 50,000 WERE IN THE WEST ALONE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH SPENT THE DAY TOURING THE MAJUIKAN AQUACULTURE PROJECT IN KUALA MUDA.

--BERNAMA 1845/HM