

MAHATHIR-ESTATES

FROM REJAL ARBEE

82 (P)  
NUKU'ALOFA (TONGA), JUNE 8 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS TO PROPOSE TO CERTAIN BIG MALAYSIAN PLANTATION COMPANIES LIKE GUTHRIE AND HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD TO INVEST IN THE OPENING UP OF ESTATES IN TONGA.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD BERNAMA AND RTM REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING HIM THAT TONGA WAS KEEN IN HAVING SUCH MALAYSIAN INVESTMENT.

THIS FOLLOWED TALKS WITH THE TONGAN PRIME MINISTER PRINCE TU'IPELEHAKE AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE, CROWN PRINCE TUPOUTO'A HERE THIS MORNING.

PRESENT AT THE ONE-HOUR DISCUSSION WERE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BAGAWI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT TAN SRI ISHAK PATEM AKHIR, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION UNIT DATUK SAFFIAN ABDUL MAJID, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF WISMA PUTRA MUSTAFA DATUK MAHMUD AND DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY NORDIN HASSAN. -- BERNAMA MORE 1007/LK

MAHATHIR-ESTATES 2 NUKU'ALOFA (TONGA)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE INVESTMENT COULD BE IN THE OPENING UP OF ESTATES FOR RUBBER, PALM OIL, COCONUT OR OTHER CROPS AS WELL AS FISH AND PRAWN CULTURE.

AT THE TALKS, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THE VARIOUS FACILITIES THAT MALAYSIA HAS THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL AND RELEVANT TO TONGAN CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.

THESE INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING FACILITIES LIKE THE ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE AS WELL AS TRAINING IN ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ESTATES.

HE HAD ALSO OFFERED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING MALAYSIAN VARIETIES OF COCONUTS LIKE THE MAWA. TONGA HAD ALREADY IMPORTED THE MALAYSIAN DWARF COCONUT, THE NEXT STEP COULD BE IMPORT OF THE MAWA FOR ITS COCONUT PLANTATIONS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. (THE TONGAN ECONOMY IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON COCONUT WHICH CURRENTLY ACCOUNTS FOR 60 PERCENT OF ITS EXPORT EARNINGS). -- BERNAMA MORE 1011/LK

ND11: (F)  
MAHATHIR-ESTATES 3 NUKU'ALOFA (TONGA)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE HAD INVITED THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS TO VISIT MALAYSIA TO LOOK AT DEVELOPMENT THERE.

"IF THEY FIND WHAT WE ARE DOING IS USEFUL AND IDENTIFY WHAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN, WE CAN MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO TONGA."

HE EXPECTED TO HAVE MORE FREQUENT EXCHANGES OF VISIT BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE CONTACTS ALREADY ESTABLISHED.

THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY PRESENTED M\$100,000 (ABOUT DLRS40,000 TONGAN) FOR REHABILITATION FOLLOWING THE RECENT HURRICANE WHICH DEVASTATED THE ISLANDS IN MARCH THIS YEAR. IT DESTROYED ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE COCONUT CROPS ON THIS MAIN ISLAND OF TONGATAPU.

-- BERNAMA MORE 1015/LK

ND12: (F)  
MAHATHIR-ESTATES 4 NUKU'ALOFA (TONGA)

THIS MORNING, DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, WHO HAD A SEPARATE PROGRAMME, VISITED THE TUI AMANAKI THE LOVE, FAITH AND HOPE CENTRE FOR THE HANDICAPPED WHERE SHE PRESENTED M\$5,000 (DLRS2,000 TONGAN) TO THE CENTRE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND HIS DELEGATION WILL LEAVE TONGA BY THE SPECIAL MAS FLIGHT FROM FUA'AMOTU AIRPORT CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATELINE FOR WESTERN SAMOA FOR THE LAST LEG ON HIS WEEK'S VISIT TO THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS. -- BERNAMA 1017/LK