

MAHATHIR-PADI
BM

FROM IDZAN ISMAIL

PORT MORESBY, OCT. 20 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL SEND SEVERAL EXPERTS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO HELP IN LARGE SCALE PADI CULTIVATION, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE PLANTATION SECTOR, LIKE HARRISONS AND CROSSFIELD, GUTHRIE AND SIME DARBY, ON HIS RETURN TO KUALA LUMPUR.

HE SAID PAPUA NEW GUINEA WAS KEEN IN DEVELOPING LARGE SCALE AS WELL AS SMALL HOLDING-TYPE PADI CULTIVATION, SIMILAR TO THOSE BEING CARRIED OUT IN MALAYSIA.

HE TOLD THIS TO BERNAMA AFTER A MEETING WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, ENCIK PAIAS WINGTI, AT THE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX AT WAIGANI, ABOUT 11 KM FROM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ENCIK WINGTI, WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS COUNTRY'S PLANNING, HAD BRIEFED HIM ON PROJECTS THAT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AND PLANNED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

-- MORE 130876Z

MAHATHIR-PADI 2 PORT MORESBY

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HAS ALSO INVITED OFFICERS FROM THE COUNTRY TO VISIT MALAYSIA TO STUDY FOR THEMSELVES THE DEVELOPMENT THERE, INCLUDING LARGE SCALE PADI CULTIVATION.

HE SAID HE HAD TALKS WITH HIS COUNTERPART ENCIK MICHAEL SOMARE AND THE LATTER WAS IMPRESSED WITH MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT ARENA AND WANTED TO LEARN FROM +OUR EXPERIENCE+.

AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN GENERAL WERE LAND REHABILITATION, RUBBER AND OIL PALM PLANTING AND RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY, MALAYSIA'S INVESTMENT SYSTEM, PLANTATION SECTION AND DISTRICT AND VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS PAPUA NEW GUINEA WAS AT ITS INITIAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, IT NEEDED GUIDANCE FROM OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WAS PREPARED TO OFFER TRAINING FACILITIES TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN VARIOUS FIELDS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ASPIRATIONS TO ESTABLISH CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. --MORE 1317/OM

MAHATHIR-PADI 3 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MALAYSIA HAD IN THE PAST SENT EXPERTS TO SERVE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AS ADVISERS AND DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR FELT THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE STEPPED UP AS THAT COUNTRY WAS STILL FACING PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID PAPUA NEW GUINEA DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND GOOD COMMERCIAL SYSTEM.

UNDER ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME, MALAYSIA HAD PROVIDED TRAINING FACILITIES TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AT INSTITUTIONS LIKE INTAN, FELCRA AND FELDA

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO PROVIDED OIL PALM AND RUBBER SEEDLINGS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THAT COUNTRY HAD SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING PALM OIL FOR EXPORT.

UNTIL LAST YEAR, TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AMOUNTED TO \$7.3 MILLION A YEAR. MALAYSIA'S MAIN EXPORTS WERE NON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, RUBBER, TYRES AND TUBES, MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES. --MORE 1324/OM

MAHATHIR-PADI 4 PORT MORESBY

EXPORTS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA WAS NEGLIGIBLE. THEY INCLUDED UNGROUND COFFEE AND TEA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MALAYSIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAD GOOD POTENTIAL TO STEP UP COOPERATION ESPECIALLY IN COMMERCE. FOR INSTANCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA WAS THE BIGGEST COUNTRY IN SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAD WIDE HILLY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAD LOOKED TOWARDS AUSTRALIA FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST, BUT, NOW IT WAS LOOKING TOWARDS SOUTH-EAST ASIA BECAUSE IT HAD MANY SIMILARITIES WITH COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

--BERNAMA 1340/AN