

PM-AGRICULTURE
BM

JITRA, MAY 1 (BERNAMA) -- THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN MODERNIZING THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES SECTORS IS TO IMPROVE THE INCOMES OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THEM TO CONTINUE WITH FARMING OR FISHING IF THESE OCCUPATIONS KEPT THEM IN POVERTY, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

OPENING THE 21ST DELEGATES' MEETING OF THE KUBANG PASU UMNO DIVISION AT THE SULTAN ABDUL HALIM SECONDARY SCHOOL IN JENAN NEAR HERE, HE POINTED OUT THAT TRADITIONAL METHODS OF FISHING AND FARMING WOULD NOT GIVEN THEM REMUNERATIVE INCOMES.

THE USE OF MODERN EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES IN PLANTING AND CATCHING FISH USE WOULD BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND INCREASE THEIR EARNINGS APART FROM HELPING TO MEET FOODNEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS TO MAKE THE COUNTRY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD. -- MORE 1309/0D

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HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE RICH RESOURCES INCLUDING FERTILE LAND WITH WHICH THE COUNTRY WAS BLESSED.

HE SAID THA WHILE THEY WERE ENJOYING VARIOUS BENEFITS, PEOPLES OF OTHER COUNTRIES WERE LIVING IN HARDSHIP AND MISERY BECAUSE OF INFERTILE SOIL AND LACK OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

HE URGED FARMERS TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND DIVERSIFY ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR EARNINGS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP AGENCIES LIKE KEMAS AND KARYANEKA TO HELP THEM AUGMENT THEIR INCOMES THROUGH SIDE ACTIVITIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT EXPLOITATION OF THE FACILITIES PROVIDED TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY WAS DEMONSTRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S GRATITUDE FOR THE ADVANTAGES CONFERRED ON THEM.

HOWEVER THERE WERE STILL SOME PEOPLES WHO WERE NOT GRATEFUL FOR THE PROVISION OF THE BENEFITS AND AMENITIES THEY WERE ENJOYING.

-- MORE 1410/MB

ZCZC NO37 (F/S)

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HE REMINDED THIS GROUP THAT THE IRRIGATION, SUBSIDY, FERTILIZER AND COUPON AMENITIES HAD HELPED THEM ACHIEVE DOUBLE-CROPPING OF PADI WHERE BEFORE THEY COULD ONLY ACHIEVE SINGLE-CROPPING.

HE SAID THERE WERE ALSO MALAYSIAN STUDENTS ABROAD WHO MADE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS ON WHICH THEY LIVED AND STUDIED EXCEEDED THE SALARIES OF LECTURERS OR PROFESSORS OF THEIR HOST COUNTRY.

DESPITE BEING STUDENTS, THEY WERE ABLE TO LIVE IN STYLE IN BIG HOUSES WITH CHAUFFERS AND DOMESTIC HELP AND YET THEY STILL ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING DICTATORIAL AND UNCARING OF THEIR WELFARE.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS THE OUTCOME OF BEING UNGRATEFUL TO GOD AND OF FORGETTING ONE'S ORIGINS AND HERITAGE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN. -- BERNAMA 1415/MB