

MAHATHIR-RISDA  
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MELAKA, DEC. 19 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXPAND THE AGRICULTURAL GROUPING SYSTEM WITH THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AFTER REVIEWING THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT THE SYSTEM WAS BEING EXPERIMENTED AT KAMPUNG ASAM JAWA IN KEDAH INVOLVING SEVERAL PADI FARMERS AND WAS FOUND TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE SYSTEM WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE RUBBER, COCOA AND COCONUTS APART FROM PADI, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE \$3.5 MILLION STATE RISDA HEADQUARTERS IN JALAN TUN SERI LANANG HERE.

HE SAID THIS WOULD OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF UNECONOMICAL FARMING BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE LAND AND ENABLE FARMERS TO DEVELOP THEIR LAND TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SYSTEM DEPENDED ON HARD WORK ON THEIR PART.

--MORE 1951/AN  
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HE SAID TWO-THIRDS OF RUBBER LAND OWNED BY SMALLHOLDERS PRODUCED ONE-THIRD OF RUBBER WHILE PLANTATIONS COVERED ONE THIRD OF THE LAND AND PRODUCED TWO THIRDS OF THE COMMODITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES TODAY DUE TO THE MARKET AND DEMAND OF MASS CONSUMER SOCIETY.

THIS SYSTEM STRESSED ON ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND THIS INCLUDED SMALLHOLDERS, HE SAID.

DUE TO THIS, SMALLHOLDERS SHOULD POOL THEIR RESOURCES TOGETHER TO ENSURE PROGRESS AND UPGRADE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING WERE LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK AND STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER DATUK RAZAK ALIAS.

--BERNAMA 1954/AN