

PM-TEA
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RANAU (SABAH) FEB 19 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR LIFESTYLE AND IMPROVE THEIR SITUATION BY COLLECTIVELY DEVELOPING THEIR LAND INTO LARGE ESTATES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE PEOPLE TO SET UP LARGE PLANTATIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR EARNINGS.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN PROPOSED INTEGRATION LAND AREAS INTO LARGE ESTATES WITH THE NECESSARY CAPITAL AND KNOW-HOW TO HELP BOOST INCOME OF THE PEOPLE.

HE WAS LAUNCHING THE NAL-APAK TEA PLANTATION IN THIS DISTRICT. THE 2,400-HECTARE PLANTATION IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THE KOPERASIPEMBANGUNAN DESA OF SABAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TRADITION OF INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT OF LAND IN REMOTE AREAS WAS NOW NO LONGER ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE FOR FARMERS.

-- MORE 1631/LK

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PM-TEA 2 RANAU (SABAH)

HE SAID THE REVIEW, FOR EXAMPLE, ADVOCATED MERGER OF FARMING PLOTS INTO BIGGER AREAS OF HUNDREDS OF HECTARE AND DEVELOPED COLLECTIVELY THROUGH AGRICULTURAL EXPERTISE, MODERN MACHINERY AND, HIGH-QUALITY SEEDLINGS.

THE MOVE WOULD LEAD TO CREATION OF TOWNSHIPS PROVIDED WITH THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES TO FACILITATE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS CLAIMING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING AWAY THEIR PROPERTY BY EXPROPRIATING THEIR LAND.

HE EXPLAINED THAT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WERE AIMED SOLELY AT HELPING THE PEOPLE UPGRADE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING, IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY WHO DID NOT WANT THE PEOPLE TO RISE FROM HARDSHIP AND POVERTY.

"THEY CAN THEN EXPLOIT THE PEOPLE'S PLIGHT TO INCITE HATRED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

HE DESCRIBED THE TEA PLANTATION AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT CONCEPT.

HE WAS HAPPY THAT FARMERS IN SABAH HAD ACHIEVED RAPID PROGRESS WITHIN A SHORT TIME AND WERE NO LONGER DEPENDENT ON SHIFTING CULTIVATION.

EARLIER, THE CHAIRMAN OF SABAH TEA, DATUK HAJI GHANI GILONG, SAID THE TEA PLANTATION PROJECT AT FIRST FACED PROBLEM DUE TO DISTRUST OF THE PROJECT BY SOME FARMERS INFLUENCED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S *POLITICAL ENEMIES*.

THESE ELEMENTS HAD TOLD THEM THE GOVERNMENT WAS USING THE KPD AS A MEANS TO SEIZE THEIR LAND WHEREAS THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO HELP THEM BY DEVELOPING THEIR IDLE LAND.

THE PLANTATION EMPLOYS 550 WORKERS ALTHOUGH ONLY 240 HECTARES OF ITS AREA HAVE BEEN CULTIVATED SO FAR. -- MORE --

PM-TEA. 4 RANAU (SABAH)

MEANWHILE, THE STATE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT DATUK LIM GUAN SING, SAID THE TEA FACTORY'S PRODUCTION OF 100,000 KILOGRAMS THIS YEAR WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 200,000 KGS NEXT YEAR.

SIXTY PERCENT OF THE TEA PRODUCED IS PACKED WHILE 20 PERCENT IS MARKETED AS LOOSE TEA LEAVES AND THE REST, AS TEA DUST.

THE ESTATE IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE 1,552 TONNES OF TEA A YEAR WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED IN 1987.

IN PEAK PRODUCTION, THE PLANTATION IS EXPECTED TO MEET ABOUT 11 TO 12 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S TEA CONSUMPTION.

THERE ARE PLANS TO EXPORT THE TEA TO OTHER STATES AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES LIKE BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE.

--MORE 1721/AN

ZCZC NO96

PM-TEA 5 RANAU (SABAH)

DATUK LIM DAID THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF SABAH TEA HAS TO DEVELOPE 2,000 HECTARES OF LAND AT NALAPAK INTO A PLANTATION COMPRISING 1,100 HECTARES OF TEA, 100 HECTARES OF COFFEE AND THE REST OF OTHER CROPS.

THE ESTATE NOW HAS 60 KILOMETRES OF ROADS, LIVING QUARTERS FOR WORKERS AND STAFF A DISPENSARY, SUNDRY SHOPS AND A MOSQUE,

--BERNAMA 1723/AN