

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY

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84 (P)  
KOTA SAMARAHAN (SARAWAK), SEPT. 9 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WANTS SARAWAK TO LAUNCH A SMALL INDUSTRIES SCHEME USING LOCAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE INCOMES OF THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS COULD BE DONE BY ENCOURAGING THE RESIDENTS TO START HANDICRAFT ACTIVITIES LIKE BASKET AND LAMP SHADE WEAVING FROM BAMBOO.

THE JUNGLES OF SARAWAK CAN BE UTILIZED FULLY BY PLANTING RATTAN TO BE TURNED INTO HANDICRAFT AS IS DONE IN THE PHILIPPINES, HE SAID AFTER A BRIEFING ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THIS NEW TOWN ABOUT 20 KM FROM KUCHING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY WHICH STRESSED ON THE NEED FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO GO HAND IN HAND WITH SMALL INDUSTRIES.

THE BRIEFING WAS GIVEN BY STATE ACTING PLANNING UNIT DIRECTOR, ENCIK MOHAMED JAMIL MUKMIN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WHO ARRIVED HERE BY HELICOPTER FROM KUCHING FOR A ONE-DAY VISIT, WERE WELCOMED BY THOUSANDS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS DESPITE A HEAVY DOWNPOUR. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY 2 KOTA SAMARAHAN

THE INCLEMENT-WEATHER CAUSED THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS DELEGATION TO CANCEL A VISIT TO A TEA PLANTATION IN KAMPUNG MAYANG, MAWANG IN SERIAN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS BRIEFED ON THE SAMARAHAN RIVER BASIN PROJECT AND THE ASAJAYA DRAINAGE SCHEME.

ENCIK JAMIL SAID THE SAMARAHAN RIVER BASIN PROJECT, WHICH WOULD BE FULLY OPERATIONAL AT THE START OF THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN, WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE INCOME OF A SIX-MEMBER FAMILY TO \$4,130 A YEAR.

A TOTAL OF 47,120 PEOPLE WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT WHICH COVERED 83,000 HECTARES.

HE ADDED THAT THE INITIAL REPORT FOR THE PROJECT WAS READY AND THE FINAL REPORT BY CONSULTANTS WAS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE NEXT MONTH.

ENCIK JAMIL SAID THE ASAJAYA DRAINAGE SCHEME, WHICH STARTED IN 1980 AND WOULD BE READY IN 1986, WOULD INCREASE THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME TO: \$121000 A YEAR. --- BERNAMA.

2052MST 09 09 84