

MAHATHIR-FOOD

SERDANG, DEC. 1 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY COMMENDED THE MALAYSIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (MARDI) FOR CARRYING OUT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COMMERCIAL VALUE AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY.

THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISED THE INSTITUTE FOR ITS GOOD PERFORMANCE, DESPITE THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF TRAINED STAFF. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A THREE-HOUR VISIT HERE, HE SAID THAT THOUGH IT HAD MORE THAN 50 STAFF MEMBERS WITH DOCTORATES AND A LARGE NUMBER WITH MASTERS DEGREES, THE INSTITUTE WAS STILL FACING A SHORTAGE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL.

DURING THE VISIT TO THE FOOD TECHNOLOGY DIVISION, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS DELEGATION HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF TASTING FOOD SUCH AS NASI BERIANI, ROJAK, SATAY AND OTHER DISHES PREPARED IN CONVENIENT FORM, WHICH WILL BE SENT TO ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN THE INTERIOR AREAS.

THE CONVENIENT FOOD RESEARCH PROGRAMME WAS BEGAN BY MARDI LAST YEAR, BASED ON PROJECTIONS OF INCREASING DEMAND FOR FOOD IN SUCH FORM. -- MORE

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THE FOOD CAN BE PREPARED IN VARIOUS WAYS, INCLUDING COLD-FREEZING IN PACKS OR PROCESSED AND KEPT IN ALUMINIUM COVERED PACKS.

AMONG THE WAYS OF PREPARING THE FOOD FOR EATING IS TO HEAT UP THE PACK IN AN OVEN OR PLACE THE ALUMINIUM PACK IN BOILING WATER.

ALTHOUGH IT IS MORE COSTLY TO PROCESS, THE PACKS ARE COMPACT, LIGHTER, STABLE AND TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE COSTS ARE LOWER.

THEY ARE ALSO SAID TO BE ABLE TO PRESERVE THE COLOUR, TEXTURE AND QUALITY OF THE FOOD BETTER THAN CANS.

AMONG THE CONVENIENT FOOD TO BE MARKETED BY MARDI ARE NASI TOMATO, NASI MINYAK, NASI BERIANI, NASI LEMAK, TRADITIONAL DISHES AND CENDOL. -- MORE

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ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY MARDI, THE ACHIEVEMENT REFLECTS THE PRODUCTIVITY AND CAPABILITY OF LOCAL RESEARCH SCIENTISTS IN APPLYING NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY.

IT SAYS CONVENIENT FOOD HAS BIG MARKET POTENTIAL AND THE DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO RISE.

THE FIMA SUPERMARKET CHAIN IS EXPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MARKETING OF THE PRODUCT. -- BERNAMA.

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