

B E487 DEE
MAHATHIR - DEVELOPMENT

^{-PS} (P)
PASIR MAS, MARCH 28 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS GIVES PRIORITY TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES TO UPGRADE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND THE MAINTAINING OF NATIONAL STABILITY.

SPEAKING TO MORE THAN 5,000 PEOPLE IN KAMPUNG GUTONG, BUNUT SUSU, NEAR HERE AFTER VISITING THE KADA PILOT PADI MINI ESTATE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE PAST HAD HELP IMPROVED THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH INCREASED INCOMES.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS PERFORMING THE HAJ HAD BEEN INCREASING YEARLY AND HAD NOW RISEN TO MORE THAN 20,000 COMPARED WITH ONLY 10,000 IN THE PAST.

ON THE PILOT PROJECT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT IT WOULD BENEFIT THE FARMERS INVOLVED.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT, UNDERTAKEN BY THE KEMUBU AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (KADA), WAS TO REHABILITTE PADI FIELDS, WHICH HAD ALL THIS WHILE BEEN LEFT IDLE, THROUGH THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. -- MORE

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+INCREASED PADI PRODUCTION WILL RESULT IN INCREASED INCOMES OF THE FARMERS AND THIS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ENJOY A BETTER LIFE,+ HE SAID.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAAKOB, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER DR GOH CHENG TEIK.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS BRIEFED BY KADA GENERAL MANAGER DR NIK HASSANI MOHAMAD ON THE PROJECT INVOLVING 20 FARMERS AND COVERING AN AREA OF 9.52 HECTARES.

THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED IN JUNE 1983. -- BERNAMA
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