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MAHATHIR-DIGNITY

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SIK, MAY 9 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TODAY TO DISCARD THE ATTITUDE OF ALWAYS ASKING FOR BENEFITS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE NATION WOULD LOSE REPUTE AND DIGNITY IF THE PEOPLE KEPT ON ASKING FOR THINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THIS WHEN LAUNCHING A PRODUCTIVITY CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY IN KAMPUNG BERJAYA NEAR HERE.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR INCOMES IF THEIR PRODUCTS WERE UPGRADED, WHETHER IN THE AGRICULTURAL OR OTHER SECTORS.

CITING THE CASE OF RUBBER, HE SAID MALAYSIA'S PRODUCTION HAD INCREASED MULTI-FOLD FROM THE TIME IT WAS INTRODUCED TO THE COUNTRY FROM BRAZIL MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE INCREASED PRODUCTION WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH RESEARCH CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENT BODIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO REHABILITATE IDLE LAND IN

THEIR KAMPUNGS TO INCREASE THEIR INCOMES.

+THE PEOPLE SHOULD STRIVE TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT AND NOT JUST ASK FROM THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE THE PEOPLE SUBSIDY, BUT IF THEY WERE SELF-RELIANT, THE MONEY COULD INSTEAD BE USED TO HELP THOSE REALLY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. -- MORE

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HE HOPED THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TODAY WOULD MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE TO UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT.

THE CAMPAIGN, TO BE HELD UNTIL MAY 12, WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN EXPOSITION OF PRODUCTS BY SETTLERS AND 30 AGENCIES UNDER THE LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. -- BERNAMA

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