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MAHATHIR-SHIFTING
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KUCHING, AUG 22/ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD / TODAY URGED THE PEOPLE IN SARAWAK'S RURAL AREAS TO STOP PRACTISING SHIFTING CULTIVATION, SAYING THAT SUCH A FARMING METHOD WAS UNECONOMIC AND A WASTE OF THE STATE'S RICH NATURAL RESOURCES.

+ I REALISE THIS IS A SENSITIVE MATTER AMONG THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK BUT IT HAS TO BE GIVEN ATTENTION BY EVERYONE CONCERNED FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST, + HE SAID.

HE LIKENED THE FELLING AND BURNING TREES WHICH MIGHT BE 100 YEARS OLD OR MORE FOR SUCH CULTIVATION TO BURNING MONEY, ADDING THAT THE PRACTICE WOULD BE A LOSS FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY.

OPENING THE SABERKAS BUILDING HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THE REASON FOR SHIFTING CULTIVATION WAS THE DECLINING SOIL FERTILITY IT COULD BE OVERCOME BY SUCH MEANS AS USING FERTILISER.

IN ADDITION, THE LAND COULD ALSO BE USED FOR OTHER PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BENEFIT THE LANDOWNERS AND THE STATE. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-SHIFTING 2 KUCHING

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE STATE, ESPECIALLY SABERKAS, TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE PRACTISING SHIFTING AGRICULTURE TO ADOPT NEW METHODS WHICH WOULD BENEFIT EVERYONE.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE STATE IF THESE FARMERS COULD TURN TO MORE MODERN WAYS AS THESE WOULD INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND LEAD TO A MORE OPTIMAL AND ECONOMIC USE OF THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES. -- BERNAMA
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