

D229

U E073 AAE  
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE  
BM

KUCHING, AUG 20<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON TRADITIONAL FARMERS TO MERGE THEIR SMALL LAND PLOTS FOR THE SAKE OF HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND BETTER INCOMES.

HE SAID LAND SIZE WAS IMPORTANT IN AGRICULTURE AS WAS THE USE OF MODERN FARMING MACHINERY IN EFFORTS TO BOOST THE NATION'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

LAUNCHING NATIONAL-LEVEL FARMERS AND FISHERMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS HERE, HE SAID IT WOULD LEAD TO MUCH HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY IF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HECTARES OF TRADITIONAL FARMLAND WERE JOINED UP FOR CONCERTED DEVELOPMENT. -- MORE  
1324MST 20 08 87

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U E084 AAE  
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 2 KUCHING

SENTIMENTAL ATTACHMENT TO LAND WITHOUT GIVING A THOUGHT TO THE RETURNS THAT COULD BE DERIVED FROM IT WOULD NOT ONLY ARREST GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RAISE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY BUT WOULD BE A LOSS TO THE FARMERS THEMSELVES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID FARMERS SHOULD DIVERSIFY THEIR CROPS TO ENHANCE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC YIELDS AND TO MEET DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS DEMAND. MALAYSIAN FISHERMEN SHOULD BE READY TO VENTURE FARTHER AWAY FROM THE COAST TO ENSURE BIGGER LANDINGS.

THERE SHOULD BE POSITIVE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES SECTORS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION EXPECTED TO REACH 70 MILLION IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER HIT OUT AT CERTAIN GROUPS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, FOR TRYING TO MAKE THE LESS DEVELOPED COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA A SUBJECT FOR RESEARCH AND A +MUSEUM PIECE+. -- MORE  
1458MST 20 08 87

D257

U E085 AAE  
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 3 KUCHING

SUCH GROUPS WERE ONLY ACTING IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS WHILE PRETENDING TO CHAMPION THE COMMUNITIES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT AS SUCH THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE VIGILANT AND NOT BECOME THEIR PREY.

THE GOVERNMENT WANTED ALL COMMUNITIES, BE THEY PENAN, CHINESE OR BAJAU, TO BENEFIT FROM THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT IN ALL ASPECTS TO ENSURE THE OVERALL PROSPERITY OF THE NATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER THEN OPENED THE AGRICULTURE/FISHERIES EXHIBITION AT THE STATE SECRETARIAT AND TOURED THE STALLS.

CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD AND FEDERAL AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID WERE AMONG THE 1,200 PEOPLE PRESENT.

EARLIER THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME ON ARRIVAL AT KUCHING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. -- MORE  
1500MST 20 08 87

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U E086 AAE  
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 4 KUCHING

DATUK PATINGGI TAIB SAID THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WAS VITAL TO ENSURE SARAWAK'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND A BETTER LIFESTYLE FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE SECTOR HAD A BRIGHT FUTURE AND WITH THIS IN MIND, THE GOVERNMENT HAD GONE ALL OUT TO DEVELOP THE STATE'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL.

A MODERN AGRICULTURAL POLICY ABLE TO TURN THE SECTOR INTO A MORE COMMERCIAL ORIENTED AND PROFITABLE PURSUIT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR IN THE STATE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI SANUSI, WHO ALSO SPOKE AT THE FUNCTION, SAID IF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN ASPIRED TO SUCCEED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS THEY SHOULD BE FIRST PREPARED TO MAKE +BIG SACRIFICES+.

SUCH SACRIFICE INVOLVED ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR TASKS, REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND HAVING THE COURAGE TO ADOPT NEW APPROACHES TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
1503MST 20 08 87