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MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE
BM

BUTTERWORTH, SEPT 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED FARMERS TO PRACTISE MODERN AGRICULTURE METHODS TO BENEFIT NOT ONLY THEMSELVES BUT ALSO THE NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNDERTAKING ESTATE-STYLE AGRICULTURE INVOLVING LARGE AREAS OF LAND OR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE WOULD BENEFIT FARMERS AND ENHANCE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

OPENING THE INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (IADP) BUILDING IN SEBERANG JAYA NEAR HERE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS, WOULD EARN BIGGER INCOMES THROUGH PROJECTS LIKE THOSE UNDER THE IADP WHICH WERE INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD WELCOME SUCH PROJECTS WHICH WERE AIMED AT THEIR BETTERMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ON A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PULAU PINANG, SAID FARMERS SHOULD ALSO PRACTISE MODERN MANAGEMENT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN HIGH QUALITY WORK AND GREATER PRODUCTIVITY. -- MORE
1829MST 14 09 87

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HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A SPECIAL UNIVERSITY TO PRODUCE SKILLED MANAGERS TO SUPERVISE AGRICULTURAL AREAS WHICH WERE DEVELOPED ON AN ESTATE BASIS OR IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER.

HE SAID THOSE WHO PRACTISED TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL METHODS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY HIGH QUALITY HARVESTS.

THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE PEOPLE TO BE MORE INNOVATIVE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE THE SUCCESSFUL CULTIVATION OF THE BALI VARIETY OF COCONUTS ON A COMMERCIAL SCALE BY FARMERS IN A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH TO PRODUCE BETTER VARIETY OF CROPS SO THAT FARMERS WOULD BENEFIT.

CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU SAID THAT ABOUT 70,000 HECTARES OF LAND IN PULAU PINANG WERE IDENTIFIED TO BE SUITABLE FOR AGRICULTURE SINCE THE IADP WAS LAUNCHED IN PULAU PINANG IN 1983. ABOUT 13,000 HECTARES WERE FOR PADI CULTIVATION. -- MORE
1900MST 14 09 87

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HE SAID 51,000 FARMERS WERE EXPECTED TO BE INVOLVED UNDER THE IADP THROUGHOUT THE STATE, WITH 84 PERCENT OF THEM FROM SEBERANG PERAI.

DR LIM SAID THAT THE IADP WOULD INCUR AN EXPENDITURE OF \$233 MILLION FROM 1983 TO 1998, INCLUDING \$106 MILLION ALLOCATED UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

ON DEVELOPMENT IN SEBERANG PERAI, HE SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT 51 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE WOULD LIVE IN SEBERANG PERAI BY THE YEAR 2000 WHEN THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE STATE WOULD BE TWO MILLION.

HE SAID THAT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE INCREASE IN POPULATION OF SEBERANG PERAI, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD STEP UP INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING IN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, PARTICULARLY IN PERAI AND MAK MANDIN.

DR LIM SAID THAT THE PENANG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PDC) PLANNED TO MAKE SEBERANG JAYA A NEW GROWTH CENTRE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE THAN 5,200 UNITS OF HOUSES, ANTICIPATING THAT ITS POPULATION WOULD TOTAL 250,000 IN THE NEAR FUTURE. -- MORE
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ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI,
AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID AND EDUCATION MINISTER
ANWAR IBRAHIM.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER PERFORMED THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
FOR THE +CLUSTER+ HOUSING PROJECT AND VISITED THE STATE-LEVEL
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXPOSITION THERE. -- BERNAMA
1938MST 14 09 87