

D104

B E654 AAE

MAHATHIR-FISHERMEN

BM

TUMPAT, OCT 3 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD GAVE AN ASSURANCE TODAY THAT THE MALAYSIAN-THAI DEEPSEA TUNA FISHING COOPERATION WILL NOT AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF COASTAL FISHERMEN.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CATCHING OF THE FISH, KNOWN AS +AYO+ IN KELANTAN DIALECT, WAS FOR EXPORT AS IT WAS POPULAR AMONG THE EUROPEANS AND JAPANESE.

SPEAKING DURING A VISIT TO A FISHERMEN'S REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN KAMPUNG GETING NEAR HERE, HE ALSO SAID THE VENTURE DID NOT MEAN THAT FOREIGN FISHERMEN COULD TRESPASS INTO MALAYSIAN WATERS TO FISH AND DISTURB THE LOCAL FISHERMEN.

+PATROL BOATS WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT CHECKS AND IF THAI FISHING BOATS ARE FOUND TO HAVE ENCROACHED INTO OUR WATERS, WE WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO URGED THE LOCAL FISHERMEN TO CHANGE FROM COASTAL FISHING TO DEEPSEA FISHING TO OBTAIN MORE LUCRATIVE INCOMES. -- MORE  
1307MST 03 10 87

D110

B E655 AAE

MAHATHIR-FISHERMEN 2 TUMPAT

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD A PROGRAMME TO TRAIN FISHERMEN TO PREPARE THEM TO VENTURE INTO DEEPSEA FISHING.

HE URGED THE FISHERMEN TO RESPOND TO THE PROGRAMME UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD BE EXPOSED TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DEEPSEA FISHING, INCLUDING THE BIG BOATS EXCEEDING 1,000 TONNES THAT WERE MODERN, HAD AIR-CONDITIONED CABINS AND COULD BE OUT AT SEA FOR PERIODS OF MORE THAN 14 DAYS.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT VENTURING INTO DEEPSEA FISHING WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNTRY AND THE FUTURE OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY, ADDING: +THE FISH IN OUR WATERS SHOULD BENEFIT US AND NOT OTHERS.+

HE SAID IT WAS EASY FOR THE PEOPLE TO PROPOSE THAT MOVES BE TAKEN TO PREVENT FOREIGNERS FROM FISHING IN THE DEEPSEA AREAS BUT THE FACT WAS THAT MALAYSIA DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT BOATS TO PATROL THE VAST OCEAN.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THE PATROLS, WHICH INVOLVED LARGE EXPENDITURE, WOULD ONLY BE MEANINGFUL AND BRING BENEFIT IF MALAYSIAN FISHERMEN CAUGHT FISH IN THE DEEPSEA AREAS AND BROUGHT HOME LUCRATIVE CATCHES. -- MORE

1329MST 03 10 87

B E656 AAE  
MAHATHIR-FISHERMEN 3 TUMPAT

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED AN ALLOCATION OF MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING LOW-COST HOUSES, A JETTY AND A SPECIAL AREA FOR PROCESSING SALTED FISH.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS DELEGATION WERE GIVEN A BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA BY SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICERS.

HE TOLD THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON THE FORM OF DEVELOPMENT SUITABLE AND ACCEPTABLE TO THEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE LOCAL PEOPLE COULD SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS BUT AT THE SAME TIME SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS ON DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE MAXIMUM BENEFIT.

HE ALSO ADVISED THE PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE AND WAY OF LIFE TO BE IN LINE WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING THE HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS ASPECTS. -- BERNAMA

1343MST 03 10 87

B E692 AAE  
MAHATHIR-FISHERMEN 4 TUMPAT (REOPENS ITEM)

LATER, VISITING KAMPUNG KEMASIN IN BACHUK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL WILLING TO ASSIST FISHERMEN DESPITE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT PROJECTS TO HELP FISHERMEN INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DYKE AT THE VILLAGE TO REDUCE INCIDENCE OF FLOODS WHICH FREQUENTLY HIT THE PLACE.

THE \$19 MILLION PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO VISITED KAMPUNG DALAM RHU HERE TO INSPECT THE LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECT SITE FOR FISHERMEN THERE. -- BERNAMA

1624MST 03 10 87