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MAHATHIR-COCONUTS

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LANGKAW I, OEC 25 (BERNAMA) -- OATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED ALL QUARTERS TO REGARD THE COCONUT INDUSTRY AS A PROFITABLE INDUSTRY FOR THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THE COCONUT HAS A VARIETY OF USES AND SMALLHOLDERS SHOULD NOT CONCENTRATE ON MARKETING ONLY THE COPRA AND COCONUT OIL.

IN HIS MESSAGE IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COCONUT FESTIVAL BEGINNING HERE TOMORROW, HE HOPES THE FESTIVAL, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD, WILL HELP INTRODUCE MALAYSIA TO OTHER COUNTRIES APART FROM UPGRADING THE LOCAL COCONUT INDUSTRY.

HE ALSO HOPES THE EVENTS, INCLUDING EXHIBITIONS AND CULTURAL SHOWS, WILL PROVE TO FOREIGN TOURISTS THAT MALAYSIA IS RICH IN CULTURE.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER OATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID IN HIS MESSAGE SAYS THE COCONUT INDUSTRY HAS GREAT POTENTIAL AND IS NOT LIMITED TO PRODUCTION OF ONLY COPRA AND COCONUT OIL.

HE SAYS HIS MINISTRY ORGANISED THE FESTIVAL TO HELP BOOST THE COUNTRY'S COCONUT INDUSTRY AND HOPES THE SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OCCASION WILL ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW TO ATTAIN THIS OBJECTIVE. -- BERNAMA

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