

# Think and plan big, PM tells fruit growers

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ALOR STAR, Sun. — Fruit growers should go into large scale production so that the country can be self-sufficient in fruits, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said that farmers should plant fruit trees on an estate basis, rather than in small orchards and in their backyards.

"We cannot just plant a few trees here and there and expect to be self-sufficient in fruits.

"We must think and plan big.

"We need big fruit plantations, like in rubber and oil

palm estates," he told reporters before leaving for Kuala Lumpur.

He said fruits such as guava, custard apple, mangosteen, rambutan and durian could be grown on a large-scale.

Commenting on reports that Malaysia would import rambutans from Australia, he said the country would not be able to solve the problem of importing fruits unless local production was increased.

As an example, he said, two-thirds of Malaysia's rubber production came from big estates and the rest from smallholdings.