

1534MST 06 08 88

U E652 ENG
MAHATHIR
BM

MELAKA, AUG 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED FARMERS AND FISHERMEN OF THE NEED TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE AND STRIVE TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME IN LINE WITH THE CHANGES OF TIME.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN A FERTILE LAND LIKE MALAYSIA THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THEM TO REMAIN POOR.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS FOR THEM TO WORK HARD AND USE MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR ACTIVITIES, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING NATIONAL FARMERS, BREEDERS AND FISHERMEN'S DAY AT THE AYER KEROH EXPOSITION SITE HERE.

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE EASY IF THEY WANTED TO SUCCEED AS THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED THEM ASSISTANCE IN VARIOUS AREAS, INCLUDING IN ADVISORY SERVICES AND CAPITAL.

+AS SUCH, THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEM TO CONTINUE TO BE POOR IN A COUNTRY OF ABUNDANCE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1525MST 06 08 88

MAHATHIR 2 MELAKA

QUOTING THE MALAY PROVERB THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE LIKE DUCKS DYING OF THIRST IN THE WATER, HE SAID THAT IF A FARMER OR FISHERMAN WAS POOR IN A RICH COUNTRY, HE SHOULD ONLY BLAME THEMSELVES FOR NOT SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

HE SAID THAT IN THIS ERA OF PROGRESS, WHERE THE POPULATION OF THE NATION HAD REACHED 16 MILLION, IT WAS NO LONGER SUITABLE TO CATCH FISH OR BREED LIVESTOCK USING THE OLD WAYS.

AS SUPPLIERS OF FOOD TO THE NATION, THE POPULATION OF WHICH WOULD REACH 70 MILLION ONE DAY, THEY SHOULD CARRY OUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN A BIG AND INDUSTRIAL MANNER, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE FARMERS WISHED TO PROGRESS, THEY SHOULD NOT MERELY GROW RUBBER, OIL PALM AND COCOA BUT SHOULD VENTURE INTO OTHER FIELDS THAT WERE MORE PROFITABLE AND CHALLENGING.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THEY COULD GO INTO THE CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS FOR THE MAKING OF PERFUME. -- MORE

1606MST 06 08 88

U E662 ENG
MAHATHIR 3 MELAKA

SO FAR NO ONE IN THE COUNTRY HAD GONE INTO THIS ON A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL BASIS, HE SAID.

ON RESEARCH, HE SAID THE VETERINARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD DEVELOPED THE +PUYAM+, A HYBRID BETWEEN THE COMMON BUTTON QUAIL (PUYUH) AND CHICKEN (AYAM).

HE SAID HE HAD TASTED THE MEAT OF THE +PUYAM+ AND HOPED THAT MORE OF THE BIRD WOULD BE BRED IN THE COUNTRY.

ON DEEPSEA FISHING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT SO FAR FEW FISHERMEN HAD VENTURED INTO THIS INDUSTRY.

IN LIGHTER VEIN, HE SAID: +BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO CATCH THE FISH, THEY SIMPLY GROW OLD AND DIE.+ -- MORE

1618MST 06 08 88

U E663 ENG
MAHATHIR 4 MELAKA

HE SAID THAT OF THE 100 PEOPLE WHO HAD SO FAR UNDERGONE TRAINING TO BECOME DEEPSEA FISHERMEN, ONLY SEVEN REMAINED, AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR PURSUIT.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER PRESENTED PRIZES TO SUCCESSFUL FARMERS, BREEDERS AND FISHERMEN AND TOURED THE STALLS AT THE SITE. -- BERNAMA

1619MST 06 08 88