

0221

U E115 AAE

MAHATHIR-FELDA (EMBARGO) FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30 TONIGHT)

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 8 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT URGED FELDA SETTLERS TO SAVE UP OR INVEST WHILE THE PRICES OF RUBBER AND PALM OIL ARE HIGH SO JRPS

ET NECESSARIL

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FINISHED IN THE MORNING, SOME CAN BE KEPT FOR USE IN THE AFTERNOON, AT NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY,+ HE SAID AT THE PRESENTATION OF +PINGAT SEMAI BAKTI FELDA+ HERE.

HE SAID THE HIGH PRICES CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY RUBBER AND PALM OIL WOULD NOT REMAIN AT THE PRESENT LEVELS FOREVER AND SAVING UP PART OF THEIR EARNINGS WOULD NOT ONLY ENSURE THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THEIR FAMILIES BUT ALSO HELP TO SPEED UP THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.

HE ADVISED SETTLERS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY FELDA AND OTHER AGENCIES FOR THEM TO SAVE AND INVEST. -- MORE

2207MST 08 08 88

0337

R E117 AAE

MAHATHIR-FELDA 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EVEN THOUGH THE INCOME OF SETTLERS WAS NOT STABLE -- BEING DEPENDENT ON COMMODITY PRICES IN THE WORLD MARKET -- IT WAS STILL GENERALLY BETTER THAN WHAT THEY USED TO GET BEFORE JOINING THE FELDA SCHEMES.

HE SAID ONE WAY FOR SETTLERS TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME WAS TO DIVERSIFY THEIR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND NOT JUST DEPEND SOLELY ON THE PRODUCE FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE LAND.

SETTLERS SHOULD NOT ADOPT THE ATTITUDE OF WAITING FOR OTHERS TO ARRANGE THINGS FOR THEM AND IT WOULD BE MORE UNFORTUNATE IF THERE WERE GROUPS WHO NOT ONLY DID NOT WANT TO WORK BUT MADE MATTERS WORSE BY BLAMING OTHERS WHEN THINGS WENT WRONG, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD PLAN AND IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS BUT THEIR SUCCESS WOULD STILL DEPEND ON THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED.

+AT THE SCHEMES, THE SETTLERS SHOULD BE THE MOTIVATORS BECAUSE A PARTICULAR PROJECT WOULD FAIL IF THE RESPONSE AND COOPERATION EXTENDED WAS POOR,+ HE ADDED.

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0121MST 09 08 88

R E119 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE SHIFTING OF SETTLERS FROM REMOTE KAMPUNGS TO THE LAND SCHEMES WAS WITH THE HOPE OF BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES AND IF THEY WERE TO STILL CLING TO OLD AND UNPROFITABLE METHODS, THE EFFORT IN MOVING THEM WOULD GO TO WASTE, HE SAID.

HE URGED FELDA TO EMULATE THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ESTATES WHICH WERE EFFICIENT WITH LOW COSTS BUT HIGH PRODUCTIVITY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT FELDA SCHEMES WERE NOT LIKE NORMAL PLANTATIONS, WHETHER FROM THE ASPECT OF ITS ECONOMY OR COMMUNITY, BECAUSE THEIR STRATEGIES WERE DRAWN UP BASED ON A MIX OF SMALLHOLDERS AND PRIVATE ESTATES.

+BUT THE FACT IS PRIVATE ESTATES ARE MAKING PROFITS EVEN THOUGH THEY THEMSELVES BEAR ALL THEIR EXPENSES.

+EVEN WHEN THE PRICES OF COMMODITY DROP, PRIVATE PLANTATIONS MANAGE TO COVER EXPENSES FROM THEIR OWN OUTPUT WITHOUT GETTING ADVANCE FROM ANY PARTY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO BEAR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF FELDA SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND THIS HAD BECOME A HEAVY BURDEN, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS FACING A DROP IN REVENUE. -- MORE
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R E120 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO REMINDED THE SETTLERS ON THE COMMUNITY LIVING CONCEPT WHICH REQUIRED THEM TO HELP EACH OTHER.

HE SAID APART FROM THE SETTLERS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO COMMITTED TO HELPING FARMERS, FISHERMEN AND OTHER RURAL RESIDENTS.

+AS SUCH IF ANY PARTIES COULD HELP THEMSELVES, IT WILL NOT BE FAIR FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP THEM FOREVER TO THE EXTENT OF DEPRIVING OTHERS OF THEIR RIGHTFUL ALLOCATIONS,+ HE SAID.

IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE AID WHEN THE COMMODITY PRICES WERE LOW BUT IF THE ASSISTANCE COULD BE REDUCED OR STOPPED WHEN THE PRICES PICKED UP, THE EXCESS MONEY COULD BE USED TO HELP OTHERS MORE IN NEED, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
0127MST 09 08 88

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R E128 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA 5 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPEN ITEM)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER PRESENTED THE SEMAI BAKTI MEDALS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF WHICH THE FIRST CLASS ORDER WAS GIVEN TO FELDA'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (SERVICES) MOHAMAD FADZIL YUNUS.

SIX OTHERS RECEIVED THE SECOND CLASS ORDER AND 11 OTHERS, THE THIRD CLASS.

FIVE OTHERS RECEIVED GOLD MEDALS WHILE THREE OTHERS, THE KOPERASI PERMODALAN FELDA SHARES CERTIFICATE OF \$3,000 EACH.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK DR SULAIMAN HAJI DAUD AND HIS DEPUTY, DATUK KHALID YUNUS.-- BERNAMA
0147MST 09 08 88