

U E129 AAE

MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE

BN

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 11 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HOPED THE MALAYSIAN AGRICULTURE PARK PROJECT AT BUKIT CERAKAH, SHAH ALAM NEAR HERE, WILL EMERGE AS A PRIME RECREATIONAL CENTRE AND TOURIST ATTRACTION, FAMOUS NOT JUST IN THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO INTERNATIONALLY.

HE SAID IF SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED, THE PROJECT WOULD RANK AMONG THE OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL PARKS IN THE WORLD.

HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THIS BRAINCHILD OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID TO CREATE A FACILITY COMPARABLE WITH THE TIVOLI IN ITALY, KEN GARDENS IN LONDON AND DISNEYLAND IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER MAKING A ONE-DAY VISIT TO THE 856HA PARK SITE.

HE IS CONFIDENT THE PROPOSED PARK LOCATED IN A NATURAL FOREST SETTING AND PLANTED WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF CULTIVATION INCLUDING PADI, OIL PALM, ORCHIDS, AND MUSHROOMS WOULD BE A TOURIST PULLER, PARTICULARLY THE WEEKEND CROWD. -- MORE

1819NST 11 09 88

0247

U E139 AAE

MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH AN INNOVATION WOULD USUALLY HAVE ITS IMITATORS, MALAYSIA HAD DEFINITELY MADE A NAME FOR ITSELF AS A PIONEER IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

THE FACT THAT THE PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED BY OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES UNDER THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY THROUGH VOLUNTARY EFFORTS BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AND WITHOUT NEEDING A SPECIAL ALLOCATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT ALSO MADE AN IMPACT ON HIM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUCH SPIRIT WOULD SURELY INSPIRE GREATER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE EXPRESSED HIS DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE SELANGOR GOVERNMENT FOR GIVING THE LAND FOR THE PARK.

HE SAID THIS EXAMPLE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. -- MORE

1848NST 11 09 88

0264

U E149 AAE

MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HOPED THE SELANGOR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED AWARDED TWO NEGLECTED WATER DAM AREAS NEARBY TO THE PARK.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE TWO AREAS WERE FORMERLY A SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY FOR KLANG BUT HAVE NOW FALLEN INTO DISUSE AND IF GIVEN TO THE PARK WILL AUGMENT ITS SCENIC ATTRACTION.

ON THE FUNDING OF THE PROJECT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL ALLOCATION FOR THE PROJECT, APART FROM THE FUNDING DERIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL ALLOCATION. THE MINISTRY MIGHT HAVE FINANCIAL RESERVES TO BE SPENT ON THE PARK, HE ADDED.

HE SAID HOWEVER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION FOR THE PARK IN FUTURE AS ITS WIDE EXPANSE WOULD REQUIRE PROPER MAINTENANCE INCLUDING PROVISION OF SECURITY CONTROL AGAINST VANDALISM.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GIVEN A SPECIAL BRIEFING ON THE PARK BY SENIOR AGRICULTURE MINISTRY AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. --

BERNAMA

1921NST 11 09 88