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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS
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TENERLOH, NOV 13 (BERHANA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED SETTLERS TO RENEW THEIR DETERMINATION, ENHANCE THEIR SPIRIT TO WORK AND BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND A MORE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PLANTATION MANAGEMENT.

ALL THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THEY WERE EQUIPPED WITH A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE, MORE SELF RELIANT, NOT SOLELY DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT AND MORE PREPARED TO FACE CHALLENGES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID THAT SETTLERS SHOULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AND FORGING GREATER UNITY AMONG THEM APART FROM WORKING TOWARDS ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTION.

+THE ACTIVITIES OF SETTLERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID, STRESSING THAT EVERY LEVEL OF PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES WAS BASED ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SETTLERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS IN HIS SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE NATIONAL LEVEL SETTLERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS AT BANDAR PUSAT JENJIA NEAR HERE. HIS SPEECH WAS READ OUT BY PAHANG MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI KHALIL YAACOB.

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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS 2 TENERLOH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SETTLERS SHOULD BE FAR SIGHTED AND PROGRESSIVE SO THAT THEY COULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WANTED SETTLERS TO BE MODERN IN THEIR APPROACH AND NOT BE LEFT BEHIND IN THE QUEST FOR PROGRESS.

HE SAID THAT MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND A MORE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PLANTATION MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE PRACTISED TO ENSURE BETTER QUALITY AND GREATER PRODUCTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LAND, REHABILITATION OF IDLE LAND AND ORGANISED GROUP FARMING.

+CURRENT EFFORTS, LIKE THAT CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY, TO REACTIVATE THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR WILL FOCUS ON INCREASING THE INCOME OF THE FARMERS THROUGH BETTER PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS 3 TEMERLOH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR WAS STILL ONE OF THE IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY, MAKING UP 20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT.

+FOURTY EIGHT PER CENT OF PRODUCTION IN THIS SECTOR COMES FROM RUBBER AND OIL PALM,+ HE SAID.

ON SETTLERS DAY, HE SAID IT WAS A VERY MEANINGFUL DAY FOR ALL SETTLERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE OPENING UP OF LAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT MANAGED TO ENHANCE NATIONAL REVENUE AND HEALTH, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT SETTLERS DAY WOULD SPUR THE SETTLERS TO WORK EVEN HARDER TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION. -- MORE

1327MST 13 11 88

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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS 4 TEMERLOH

DATUK KHALIL, IN HIS CAPACITY AS MENTERI BESAR, SAID HE DID NOT WANT OUTSIDERS TO +DISTURB THE PEACE+ OF SETTLEMENT SCHEMES AS IT WOULD HAMPER DEVELOPMENT IN THESE AREAS.

HE SAID MANY COUNTRIES WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE GROWTH OF SETTLEMENT SCHEMES IN MALAYSIA.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE HEALTH MINISTER DATUK CHAM SIANE SUN, CULTURE AND TOURISM MINISTER DATUK SABBARUDDIN CHIK AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATUK NAPSIAH DHAR.

THE WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITZ HASMAH MOHAMED ALI, LATER OPENED A SETTLERS EXPO. -- BERNAMA

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