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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS

ON

TANJUNGS MALIN, DEC 17 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED FELDA SETTLERS TO BE MARY OF A GROUP WHICH IS TRYING TO INCITE THEM TO GO AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE GROUP WOULD VISIT FELDA LAND SCHEMES WITH THE BAD INTENTION OF DISUNITING THE FELDA SETTLERS.

+THEY WILL BE COMING AND BE MARY OF THEIR BAD INFLUENCE, WHICH WOULD EVEN GO TO THE EXTENT OF CREATING A FELDA A AND FELDA B AND SO ON,+ HE TOLD ABOUT 1,300 SETTLERS DURING A VISIT TO THE FELDA SEDANGSA LAND SCHEME, ABOUT 23KM FROM HERE.

+THIS IS UNHEALTHY. IT WOULD BE BEST IF ALL OF US ARE A, THERE SHOULD NOT BE A B AT ALL,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS ON A VISIT TO ULU SELANGOR, THE FIRST IN HIS SERIES OF VISITS TO VARIOUS DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS 2 TANJUNGS MALIN

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GROUP WOULD NOT LOSE ANYTHING BECAUSE THEY DID SO SOLELY FOR THEIR OWN INTEREST.

+THEY NEED OUR (SETTLERS) SUPPORT BUT IF WE MAKE THE WRONG MOVE, WE WILL BE THE ONE TO LOSE AND THEY WOULD GO TO THE PLACES TO LIVE IN PROSPERITY AND WITH GREATER WEALTH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO ARRIVED HERE IN A HELICOPTER FROM KUALA KLUSU DARU SAID, FELDA SCHEMES WERE CREATED BASED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE PEOPLE AND ITS DESIRE TO UPGRADE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

IF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE WAS IRRESPONSIBLE, SUCH SCHEMES WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE IMPLEMENTED, HE SAID.

HE COMMENDED THE SETTLERS FOR SUPPORTING THE SCHEME, RESULTING IN ABOUT 200,000HA OF LAND BEING OPENED AND PLANTED WITH VARIOUS CROPS.

+THIS IS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ESTATE,+ HE SAID AND WAS GREETED WITH A LOUD APPLAUSE.

HE SAID THE SUCCESS OF FELDA NOT ONLY DEPENDED ON GOOD MANAGEMENT BUT ALSO ON THE SETTLERS' ATTITUDE.

+IF THEY (SETTLERS) ARE PATIENT, FOLLOW REGULATIONS AND WORK HARD, THEY ARE BOUND TO ACHIEVE FURTHER SUCCESS,+ HE SAID. --MORE

1431MST 19 12 88

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MAHATHIR-SETTLERS 3 TANJUNG MALIM

+THE SUCCESS OF FELDA TODAY IS BECAUSE THE SETTLERS HAD WORKED HARD AND THEY WERE NOW ENJOYING A BETTER LIFE THAN WHEN COMPARED TO BEFORE THEY JOIN THE SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO REVERT TO INDIVIDUAL LAND TITLES TO THE SETTLERS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, ENCIK SHAFAR BABA, AT THE RECENT UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HE HOPED THE SETTLERS WORK HARDER ON THEIR LAND AFTER THE SYSTEM WAS IMPLEMENTED.

ON HANDICRAFT AT FELDA SCHEMES, HE SAID THERE WERE MANY CONSTRAINTS BEFORE THEIR PRODUCTION AND QUALITY COULD BE UPGRADED.

HE SAID HE WAS PROUD TO SEE SETTLERS PRODUCING HANDICRAFT BUT THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE OF BETTER QUALITY FOR THEM TO FIND A MARKET OVERSEAS.

+THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT WITH THE INCOME FROM THE HANDICRAFT AND THE ESTATE PRODUCE, FELDA SETTLERS WOULD ENJOY A BETTER LIFE THAN BEFORE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN MOHAMED, THEN VISITED A HANDICRAFT CENTRE AND A HOUSE OF A SETTLER.

HE THEN LEFT BY HELICOPTER FOR BATANG KALI. --BERMAHA
1514MST 19 12 88