

D178

U E052 AAE
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE
BM

89
IPOH, A U G (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR....,
MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WILL GROW MORE RAPIDLY WITH
INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION; PARTICULARLY FOOD.

FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT WANTED FARMERS TO UPGRADE THE
USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HE SAID WHEN
LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL FARMERS, LIVESTOCK BREEDERS AND
FISHERMEN'S DAY AT MEDAN GOPENG, HERE.

DA'TUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, APART FROM IMPROVING FARMERS'
INCOME, INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INCLUDING FOOD, WOULD
PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE AT LOWER PRICES.

HE SAID THIS WAY THE PEOPLE NEED NOT HAVE TO ALLOCATE A LARGE
PORTION OF THEIR INCOME TO BUY FOOD.

EVEN WITH A LOW INCOME-LEVEL, THE PEOPLE COULD STILL LIVE
COMFORTABLY AND THE COUNTRY NEED NOT HAVE TO DEPEND ON OTHER
COUNTRIES TO IMPORT FOODSTUFF, HE SAID. -- MORE

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U E058 AAE
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 2 IPOH

HE SAID THE FARMERS' DAY WAS HELD ANNUALLY BECAUSE THE
GOVERNMENT WANTED IT TO SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT THE BASIS OF THE
COUNTRY'S WEALTH AND ECONOMY WAS AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK BREEDING AND
FISHING.

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY ASPIRED TO BECOME AN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY
+WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT AGRICULTURE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN
THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY SHOULD UPGRADE THE FOOD
PRODUCTION INDUSTRY SO THAT IT NEED NOT HAVE TO IMPORT FOOD AT HIGH
PRICES.

MALAYSIA SHOULD INCREASE ITS FOOD PRODUCTION AT LEAST TO MEET
PART OF ITS FOOD REQUIREMENTS.

HOWEVER IT WAS BETTER IF THE COUNTRY COULD PRODUCE SURPLUS FOOD
AT LOWER PRICES SO THAT THEY COULD BE EXPORTED TO INCREASE THE
COUNTRY'S REVENUE.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE GOVERNMENT WANTED FARMERS TO SHED THE
PRACTICE OF TILLING THE LAND FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY, BUT INSTEAD TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FERTILE SOIL IN THE COUNTRY TO UNDERTAKE
MODERN FARMING EITHER FROM THE ASPECT OF THE USE OF MACHINERY,
METHOD OF CULTIVATION OR HIGH YIELDING STRAINS. -- MORE

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U E063 AAE
MAHATHIR-AGRICULTURE 3 IPOH

IN THIS RESPECT; HE SAID THE PEOPLE NEED NOT HAVE TO ALLOCATE A
LARGE PORTION OF THEIR INCOME TO MEET THEIR ESSENTIALS IN LIFE.

+IT IS BETTER TO EARN \$100 MONTHLY AND YET BE ABLE TO EAT
CHICKEN EVERY DAY- RATHER THAN EARN 8300 BUT THE PRICES OF GOODS
INCREASE THREE-FOLD,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THE COUNTRY
WOULD EMERGE AS A LEADING AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY SO
THAT MALAYSIANS WOULD BE RESPECTED BY THE WORLD.

PRESENT WERE MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI RAMLI NGAH TALIB AND HIS
WIFE, AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID AND DEPUTY HOME
MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYCB. -- BERNAMA

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