

D838

R E102 AAE
MAHATHIR-FARMERS
BM

KANGAR, JUNE 25 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS ADVISED FARMERS TO MECHANISE THEIR OPERATIONS FOR GREATER YIELD AND EFFICIENT LAND USE.

HE SAID IN FUTURE AGRICULTURAL MANPOWER WOULD BE HARD TO COME BY A S ADVANCEMENT IN EDUCATION WOULD ATTRACT THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO JOBS IN INDUSTRIES.

+BUT THIS IS OKAY. BY APPLYING MECHANISED AGRICULTURE AND LATEST TECHNOLOGY, A SMALL POPULATION OF FARMERS CAN WORK ON LARGE TRACT OF LAND AND PRODUCE HIGH-YIELD CROPS,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE WAS ADDRESSING A GATHERING OF 4,000 FARMERS AT KAMPUNG CANTIK BANGUN, SERDANG NEAR HERE WHO WELCOMED THE PRIME MINISTER TO A ONE-DAY VISIT TO PERLIS TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A CENTURY AGO 95 PER CENT OF THE UNITED STATES' POPULATION WERE FARMERS BUT NOW ALTHOUGH ONLY FIVE PER CENT OF THEM WORK THE LAND, MODERN TECHNOLOGY MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PRODUCE CROPS TO SUPPORT 95 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION.-- MORE
1445MST 25 06 90

D851

R E107 AAE
MAHATHIR-FARMERS 2 KANGAR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PROPER IRRIGATION PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT MADE DOUBLE-CROPPING POSSIBLE BUT NOW EVEN DOUBLE-CROPPING WAS NOT NECESSARY AS FARMERS ENJOYED A SECOND HARVEST OF PADI THAT HAD SPROUTED AFTER THE FIRST.

+WE MUST BE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR THIS. MALAYSIA IS FORTUNATE THAT IT IS SPARED OF SEVERE DISASTERS SUCH AS THOSE EXPERIENCED IN IRAN, BANGLADESH AND CHINA IN WHICH THOUSANDS OF LIVES PERISHED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED THE PEOPLE TO BE WARY OF GROUPS ALL OUT TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE IMPENDING GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID A WRONG CHOICE OF GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY BE TO THE PEOPLE'S DETRIMENT.

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS SELFLESSLY THINKING OF WAYS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.-- MORE
1527MST 25 06 90

D867

R E117 AAE
MAHATHIR-FARMERS 3 KANGAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS AND OTHER OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE GOING ROUND VILLAGES TO INSTIGATE THE PEOPLE TO HATE THE GOVERNMENT BY ALLEGING

THAT MALAYSIANS WERE STILL BADLY OFF AFTER 33 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

HE SAID PARTI SEMANGAT 46 LEADERS WERE BLAMING THE GOVERNMENT FOR EVERYTHING, WHEREAS WHEN THEY WERE IN THE GOVERNMENT, EVERYTHING SEEMED FINE TO THEM.

+IN FACT BECAUSE OF A SEMANGAT 46 LEADER, THE GOVERNMENT INHERITS HUGE FOREIGN DEBTS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SEMANGAT 46 LEADER HAD SADDLED THE GOVERNMENT WITH A \$57 BILLION FOREIGN DEBT.

HE LATER PRESENTED GRASS CUTTERS TO 14 POOR FARMERS AND AWARDED 13 OTHERS IN THE MUDA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MADA) AREA FOR BOOSTING PADI YIELD FROM 4.5 TONNES TO A 7.9 TONNER PER 0.3 HA.

ACCOMPANIED BY MENTERI BESAR DR ABDUL HAMID PAWANTEH, HE ALSO TOOK PART

IN A GOTONG ROYONG TO REPAIR A 90 METRE ROAD THERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DR SITI HASMAH, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, DEWAN NEGARA AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEN.

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BERNAMA

1556MST 25 06 90