

MAHATHIR-FELDA

BM

90 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 13 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD PRESENTED 142,000 FELDA SHARES TOTTALLING \$30 MILLION TO SETTLERS AND STAFF OF THE AGENCY HERE TODAY.

THE SHARES WORTH \$200 EACH WERE GIVEN TO 119,293 SETTLERS AND 22,707 STAFF UNDER THE FELDA SHARE OWNERSHIP SCHEME INTRODUCED RECENTLY.

THE SHARE OWNERSHIP, WHICH QUALIFIES THEM TO BECOME MEMBERS OF KOPERASI PERMODALAN FELDA, IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE ACCUMULATED PROFITS OF 13 FELDA CORPORATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1972.

THE CORPORATIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ARE INVOLVED IN MARKETING, TRANSPORTATION, MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND HANDLING OF LATEX.

THE PRIME MINISTER PRESENTED THE SHARE CERTIFICATE TO 12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SETTLERS AND STAFF AFTER OPENING THE KELANA JAYA SEMAI BAKTI HOSTEL NEAR HERE. -- MORE
2053MST 13 07 90

D480

U E542 ENG

MAHATHIR-FELDA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

SPEAKING AT THE FUNCTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PARTICIPANTS OF NEW FELDA SCHEMES WOULD BE OFFERED SHARES.

HE SAID THIS WAS ONE WAY WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE MALAYS IF THEY WANTED TO PROGRESS.

+THROUGH SHARE OWNERSHIP, WHICH BY ITSELF MEANS CAPITAL HOLDING, MORE STABLE AND BETTER RETURNS CAN BE OBTAINED,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT SOLE RELIANCE ON THE LAND WAS AN OUTDATED STAND.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHARE OWNERSHIP SHOULD REPLACE OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND OTHER FORMS OF PROPERTY SO THAT ATTENTION WAS GIVEN NOT TO THE LAND AREA BUT TO THE YIELD IN THE FORM OF DIVIDENDS.

THE ATTITUDE OF OWNING LAND JUST FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAND WAS NO LONGER SUITED TO THE PRESENT SITUATION BECAUSE WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THE YIELD FROM THE LAND AND HOW THE LAND WAS USED TO GET BETTER RETURNS, HE SAID. -- MORE
2118MST 13 07 90

D482

U E543 ENG

MAHATHIR-FELDA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON LAND OWNERSHIP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF TOO MUCH LAND WAS OWNED UNDER THE FARAIID LAW (MUSLIM LAW OF INHERITANCE), IT WOULD NOT BRING ANY YIELD BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO WORK, MANAGE OR SELL THE LAND AS THERE WERE TOO MANY OWNERS.

+THE FARAIID LAWS CANNOT BE BLAMED. TO BE BLAMED ARE THE MUSLIMS WHO DON'T KNOW OR DON'T WANT TO PRACTISE IT BY NOT CAUSING THEMSELVES LOSSES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE THAT FAIR ISLAMIC LAWS WILL BRING LOSSES.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +WHAT WE FEAR IS THAT IN THE END THE FELDA LAND WILL BE SOLD TO OTHERS BECAUSE THE LAND IS NOT PROFITABLE AND THE HEIRS WHO NO LONGER WORK AS SETTLERS ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN WORKING IT.+

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD PLAN AND IMPLEMENT SCHEMES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PEOPLE BUT WHETHER THEY BENEFITED THE TARGET GROUP DEPENDED GREATLY ON THE PARTICIPANTS.

+INSTIGATED BY CERTAIN GROUP, THE SCHEME PARTICIPANTS CAN THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE THEM SHORT-TERM PROFITS BUT WHAT'S THE USE OF PROFITS TODAY IF WE LOSE IN THE END,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

D483

U E544 ENG
MAHATHIR-FELDA 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LALSO SAID THE MALAYS NEEDED TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BE BRAVE IN TAKING RISKS AS WELL AS WORK HARDER BY USING MORE SUITABLE METHODS AND APPROACHES TO ENSURE A HAPPY AND MORE COMMFORTABLE LIFE.

+WE DO NOT WANT TO REMAIN AS A RACE THAT IS POOR, BACKWARD AND DESPISED BECAUSE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE LOWER THAN THE OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

THE \$6.7 MILLION HOSTEL WHICH HE OPENED WAS COMPLETED AT THE END OF 1988 AND TOOK IN ITS FIRST BATCH OF 225 STUDENTS IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

THE HOSTEL, WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE 480 STUDENTS, WAS BUILT FOR CHILDREN OF FELDA SETTLERS AND STAFF FROM FORMS ONE TO FIVE. --

BERNAMA

2122MST 13 07 90