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MAHATHIR - SETTLERS

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KUALA TERENGGANU, AUG 10 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, HAS CALLED ON FELDA SETTLERS TO WORK TOWARDS INCREASING THEIR PRODUCTIVITY TO HELP ENHANCE THE NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IN ORDER TO DO THIS, THE SETTLERS MUST BE UNITED AND RESPONSIVE TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, HE SAID IN HIS MESSAGE IN A SOUVENIR BOOK PUBLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL SETTLERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD ON MONDAY AT BANDAR AL MUKTAFI BILLAH SHAH IN DUNGUN DISTRICT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THE SETTLERS ARE UNITED, MORE TIME COULD BE SPENT ON WORK THAT COULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY, AND IT WOULD ALSO BE EASIER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

THE SETTLERS, BEING A LARGE COMMUNITY, COULD CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TOWARDS THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC STABILITY, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE NATION'S ECONOMY IS ON THE UPSWING WHILE THE PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES HAD IMPROVED.

HOWEVER, THE SETTLERS SHOULD DOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IF THEY WANTED TO BENEFIT FROM IT. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR - SETTLERS 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR, TAN SRI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, IN HIS MESSAGE, SAID THE DECLARATION OF SETTLERS' DAY WAS A GREAT HONOUR TO THE SETTLERS, WHO HAD WORKED HARD TO HELP MAKE MALAYSIA THE MAIN EXPORTER OF PALM OIL AND RUBBER.

HE HOPED THAT THE SUCCESS WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE YOUTHS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BUT ALSO REDUCE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.

LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, DATUK KASITAH GADAM, SAID THE SETTLERS COULD BE CONSIDERED FORTUNATE AS THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC STANDARD THROUGH FARMING.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED POTENTIAL FOR OPENING UP MORE LAND, THEY SHOULD NOT NEGLECT THEIR HOLDINGS BUT WORK TOWARDS OPTIMUM RETURNS. -- BERNAMA
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