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R E741 AAE  
MAHATHIR-FARMERS  
BM

SHAH ALAM, AUG 16 (BERNAMA) -- FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, DESPITE BEING SMALL IN NUMBERS, CAN PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED THE NATION IF THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT MODERN TECHNIQUES INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK VARIOUS RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH ITS AGENCIES TO FURTHER DEVELOP AGRICULTURE, AND THE PEOPLE SHOULD ACCEPT THE NEW METHODS.

+IN FACT, THERE SHOULD NEVER BE POVERTY IN THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE WE LIVE IN PEACE IN A PRODUCTIVE LAND WITH ALL KINDS OF AMENITIES,+ HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING FARMERS, LIVESTOCK-BREEDERS AND FISHERMEN'S DAY AT THE MALAYSIAN AGRICULTURE PARK IN BUKIT CERAKAH, HERE.

HE SAID THE MERGING OF A PADI FARMER'S EXPERIENCE AND A RESEARCH OFFICER'S MODERN METHOD OF INCREASING CROP YIELD WAS AN EFFORT TOWARDS ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FARMERS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO SUPPLY FOOD FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION BECAUSE THEY USED PRODUCTS OF RESEARCH SUCH AS QUALITY SEEDS, MACHINERY AND WELL-PLANNED IRRIGATION CANALS. -- MORE  
2111MST 16 08 90

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R E742 AAE  
MAHATHIR-FARMERS 2 SHAH ALAM

+ALTHOUGH ONLY FIVE PER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY IS FARMERS, THEY ARE ABLE TO SUPPLY FOOD TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE REMAINING 95 PER CENT BECAUSE THEY USE MODERN METHODS OF FARMING,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO STRIVING TOWARDS THAT GOAL TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION.

ON FISHERIES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS BUILDING AN 800-TONNE BOAT TO ENABLE FISHERMEN ENGAGE IN DEEP-SEA FISHING. A SMALL NUMBER OF FISHERMEN USING A LARGE BOAT COULD LAND A BIG CATCH, HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT THIS EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SPUR MORE FISHERMEN TO USE LARGE BOATS AND ENGAGE IN DEEP-SEA FISHING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT THEY ENJOYED, SUCH AS GOOD HEALTH AND A PEACEFUL COUNTRY, WHICH HE SAID ENABLED THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TO CONTINUE. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-FARMERS 3 SHAH ALAM

HE ALSO ADVISED THE PEOPLE NOT TO FORGET THEIR +ROOTS+ ONCE THEY BECAME SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE.

SOME PEOPLE CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TOO RICH TO ENGAGE IN MENIAL TASKS ... FOR EXAMPLE THOSE WHO HAD GROWN RICH ON OIL DO NOT WANT TO FISH, BREED LIVESTOCK OR FARM, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT HE DID NOT ASK THE PEOPLE TO SLEEP LESS AS WAS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS RECENTLY.

WHAT HE MEANT WAS THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT SLEEP DURING WORKING HOURS, HE SAID, AND ADDED THAT SUFFICIENT SLEEP WAS NECESSARY FOR A PERSON TO WAKE UP FRESH AND HEALTHY THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID, WHO SPOKE EARLIER, APPEALED TO FARMERS AND FISHERMEN TO BE PREPARED TO CHANGE THEIR THINKING FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT, AND ADVISED THEM NOT TO LISTEN TO +NONSENSE+. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-FARMERS 3 SHAH ALAM

HE SAID MANY WOULD QUESTION EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE SALE OF YOUNG COCONUTS, SHEEP FARMING AND DEEP-SEA FISHING BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT CONVINCED THESE VENTURES COULD SUCCEED.

THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTRY, PLANNED TO HOLD A +FISHERMEN'S OLYMPICS+ SOON IN AN EFFORT TO BOOST THE MORALE OF THE PEOPLE IN FISHING VILLAGES, HE SAID.

THOSE WHO REPRESENTED THE COUNTRY IN SWIMMING EVENTS CAME FROM +THE SWIMMING POOLS IN THE TOWNS+ BUT FISHERMEN WHO WERE AT SEA MOST OF THEIR LIVES DID NOT SHOW UP TO REPRESENT THE COUNTRY, HE SAID. --

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