

PM: Accept new methods to increase yield

MS1 17 AUG 1990

SHAH ALAM, Thurs. **L**
Farmers and fishermen should be ready to accept new methods to increase their yield and productivity to meet the country's future needs, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Since more young people were going into non-agricultural sectors, less people would be working on the farms, he said. This means that better farming methods must be used for maximum gains.

"We have to increase our produce by employing newer methods. We must be ready to accept new methods not only to benefit the majority of the popula-

tion but also to upgrade the living standards of farmers and fishermen," he said today when launching the National Farmers, Rearing and Fishermen's Day celebrations at Puncak Seni in Bukit Ceraka, the national agricultural park.

In line with this, the Government had approved the building of a 800-tonne fishing vessel to help train "a new breed of fishermen" using modern methods, Dr Mahathir said.

Perhaps one day, fishermen could fish not only in Malaysian territorial waters but venture out to the Indian, Pacific or Atlantic oceans which be-

longed to everyone, he added.

Dr Mahathir hoped that in future, fishermen, farmers and rearers would be able to enjoy a much better life and a higher standard of living.

The Prime Minister also said one must "first look back" to measure one's achievement before "looking ahead" to make further progress.

"We should look at how we were in the past and then look at what is there for us in the future."

Dr Mahathir hoped that farmers' children, if they chose to be part of the agricultural sector, would become modern farmers and

fishermen.

"Although we regard the level of our progress to be satisfactory, we cannot allow it to remain unchanged or we will be considered old-fashioned and out-of-date, and thus unable to compete with others."

Dr Mahathir said research was not a waste of funds as it benefited many sectors.

Also present were Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib, Kelantan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Yakkob, Cabinet Ministers, senior Government officials and their wives.