

D462

R E946 ENG
MAHATHIR-LPN
BM

ALOR SETAR, SEPT 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WILL LAUNCH A +LPN TURUN KE BENDANG+ (LPN TAKES TO THE PADI FIELD) PROGRAMME IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL PADI AND RICE AUTHORITY'S 19TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH BATU 20, MEGAT DEWA NEAR HERE ON THURSDAY.

LPN DIRECTOR-GENERAL DATUK HAJI AMIR YAAKUB SAID TODAY THAT ABOUT 50 PEOPLE REPRESENTING ALL LEVELS OF LPN STAFF WOULD HARVEST PADI TOGETHER WITH THE FARMERS UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THE PROGRAMME WAS TO CREATE AN AWARENESS AMONG LPN STAFF ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY FARMERS.

AMONG THE OTHER LEADERS TO BE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION ARE AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND PERLIS MENTERI BESAR DR ABDUL HAMID PAWANTEH.

EARLIER, DATUK HAJI AMIR YAAKUB HELD A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KEDAH/PERLIS SINO-MALAY RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION AND PERLIS NON-MALAYS MILLERS ASSOCIATION HERE. -- MORE
1853MST 15 09 90

R E947 ENG
MAHATHIR-LPN 2 ALOR SETAR

HE SAID THE LPN HAD NO INTENTION OF MONOPOLISING THE RICE BUSINESS, ADDING THAT PRIVATE MILLERS SHOULD NOT FEAR THE LPN MOVE TO BUY PADI FROM THE PADI FARMERS.

THE COMPETITION PREVAILING BETWEEN THE LPN AND PRIVATE MILLERS WAS HEALTHY AND DID NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT ANY GROUPS.

+IT DEPENDS ON THE FARMERS WHETHER THEY WANT TO SELL THEIR PADI TO THE PRIVATE MILLERS OR LPN,+ HE SAID.

DATUK HAJI AMIR SAID DURING THE SECOND HARVESTING SEASON IN KEDAH LAST YEAR, LPN BOUGHT ONLY 40,000 TONNES OF PADI COMPARED WITH THE 310,000 TONNES PURCHASED BY THE PRIVATE MILLERS. -- BERNAMA
1854MST 15 09 90