

D159

U E156 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA
BM

90
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 25 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY A STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSES OF THE FAILURE OF FELDA MANAGEMENT TO MAKE AS MUCH PROFIT AS THE PRIVATE-OWNED ESTATES ALTHOUGH THE COSTS OF ITS ADMINISTRATION ARE BORNE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MEASURES WOULD THEN BE TAKEN TO OVERCOME THE SHORTCOMINGS AND WEAKNESSES.

+WHAT IS OBVIOUS IS THAT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE SALARIES OF THE MANAGERS ARE PAID BY THE COMPANIES AND THEY ARE STILL ABLE TO MAKE PROFIT. ON THE OTHER HAND IN FELDA, ALL SALARIES ARE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT IT DOES NOT MAKE AS MUCH PROFIT AS THE PRIVATE COMPANIES,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SMALLHOLDERS (NASH) AT THE RISDA BUILDING HERE.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE SIZE OF FELDA ESTATES WAS BIGGER COMPARED WITH THAT OF PRIVATE-OWNED ESTATES AND WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE AN ALLOCATION OF ABOUT \$100 MILLION TO FUND THE COSTS OF ADMINISTRATION, ITS PROFIT WAS STILL BELOW THAT OF THE PRIVATE-OWNED ESTATES.

HE SAID THAT THE PRIVATE COMPANIES WERE STILL CAPABLE OF RECORDING PROFIT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD TO BEAR THE SALARIES OF THE MANAGERS THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY WERE ABLE TO REDUCE COSTS OF PRODUCTION. -- MORE

1338MST 25 01 89

D169

U E157 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER CITED AS AN EXAMPLE: +IF FELDA'S COST OF PRODUCTION IS \$600, THE UNITED PLANTATIONS ONLY NEEDED \$400, AND WHEN RECORDING A SALES TURNOVER OF \$700, FELDA GAINS ONLY \$100 WHILE THE COMPANY CONCERNED MAKES A PROFIT OF \$300.+

+WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BUSINESS IF EACH LOSSES HAD TO BE BORNE BY THE GOVERNMENT?+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT FELDA MANAGEMENT NEEDED TO BE STUDIED TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE IT DIFFERED FROM THAT OF THE PRIVATE COMPANIES.

HE ALSO CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE SIZE OF SMALLHOLDERS' LAND WHICH WAS LARGER COMPARED WITH THE SIZE OF ESTATES LIKE GUTHRIE'S BUT WHERE PROFIT WAS CONCERNED, FELDA FAILED TO MAKE AS MUCH AS THE ESTATES.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP FELDA TO ENABLE SMALLHOLDERS TO BE +ESTATE-OWNERS+ AND CAPABLE OF EFFICIENT PRODUCTION.

+IT IS BETTER THAN WORKING LIKE THE SMALLHOLDERS BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE PROFIT IS STILL NOT ON PAR WITH THAT DERIVED BY THE PRIVATE COMPANIES,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1414MST 25 01 89

D177

U E161 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT MERELY BE GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR THE +FERTILE SOIL+ WITHOUT TRANSLATING THAT GRATITUDE INTO ACTION TO DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT.

HE SAID THAT THE MALAYSIAN SOIL WAS FERTILE TO THE EXTENT THAT IF A BRANCH WAS STUCK INTO THE GROUND, A PLANT WOULD GROW WITHOUT ANY EFFORT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE SOIL SHOULD BE MANAGED EFFICIENTLY AND NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED.

HE SAID THAT SUCH ATTITUDE WAS AKIN TO EXPRESSING GRATITUDE WHEN A GIFT WAS RECEIVED BUT THROWING THE GIFT AWAY LATER OR NOT MAKING USE OF IT AT ALL.

HE ALSO CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE ARID DESERT IN THE ARAB NATIONS WHICH WERE NOW PRODUCING WHEAT FOR EXPORT FOLLOWING EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE SOIL. -- MORE
1432MST 25 01 89

D183

U E167 AAE
MAHATHIR-FELDA 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED SMALLHOLDERS TO DIVERSIFY LAND UTILISATION INCLUDING REARING SHEEP ON RUBBER LAND OR GROWING PAPAYAS.

NINE MILLION SHEEP COULD BE REARED ON RUBBER LAND IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WAS A MARKET FOR THE LIVESTOCK IN SAUDI ARABIA.

ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO SMALLHOLDERS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SEND 10 NASH REPRESENTATIVES TO A RUBBER-PRODUCING NATION TO OBSERVE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

TO THE PROPOSAL BY NASH CHAIRMAN DATUK AHMAD ARSHAD THAT SMALLHOLDERS' OUTSTANDING LOANS AMOUNTING TO \$70 MILLION BE WRITE-OFF, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE DEBTS SHOULD BE PAID BECAUSE THE MONEY COULD BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES LIKE GRANTING SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE RISDA CHAIRMAN ENCIK MOHAMED NOR REJAB AND RISDA DIRECTOR-GENERAL DATUK HASSAN IBRAHIM.

-- BERNAMA
1448MST 25 01 89