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Mahathir-fisherman

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SHAH ALAM, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today got a +feel+ of what it was like to be a helmsman of a fishing boat.

Taking the wheel of a boat in a simulation of a deep-sea fishing trip, he +steered+ the vessel in a symbolic launching of the Farmers', Livestock Breeders' and Fishermen's Day celebrations at the Agriculture Park here.

Amidst the sounds of a throbbing engine and crashing waves, he spoke via mobile telephone with participants of a fishing expedition off the Terengganu coast.

During the 10-minute conversation with a participant, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir enquired about the weather and the catch but the answer was unintelligible because of static.

Changing to another mobile telephone, the Prime Minister was able to hear the participant say that the weather was fair and that the expedition was 96 km off the Terengganu coast. -- more

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Mahathir-fisherman 2 (last) Shah Alam

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told the participants that the government would be training more fishermen to take up deep-sea fishing using larger vessels.

+We will train them till they are able to catch a whale, + he said to the amusement of those present.

Speaking to another participant, a farmer's representative, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir asked how he came to be on board a fishing boat when he should be overseeing agricultural projects.

He told the Prime Minister that there were five of them representing the National Farmers' Organisation in the expedition.

The Prime Minister ended his conversation by wishing them a safe return and huge catch of fish. -- Bernama

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