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VISION TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE CALLS FOR CHANGE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

Vision

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Kuantan, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the theme of this year's Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen Day celebrations, +Vision to Develop Agriculture+, requires them to be receptive to change. ▲

The changes demanded were not only in the approach to planning but also called for a display of positive attitudes and pooling of energy to create a strong, dynamic, active, self-reliant and honest group, he added.

In this connection, farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen should strive to face the challenges resulting from changes in international trade and market protection to be able to compete effectively.

+The challenges should be handled wisely and with full commitment in our efforts to implement strategies for upgrading agricultural productivity on a commercial scale,+ he said in his message in the souvenir programme of the national-level Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen Day celebrations, which he will launch at the State Agricultural Park in Bandar Indera Mahkota here tomorrow. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said the country was going through a decade of rapid changes, and its rapid economic growth and high tempo of development required the agricultural sector to be more efficient, competitive and resilient.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, in his message, said the theme was based on the philosophy of development as enshrined in the Vision 2020 conceptualised by the Prime Minister.

+Although the vision gives stress on industries, the agriculture sector cannot be taken lightly because other sectors, particularly manufacturing, cannot help but depend on it,+ he added.

Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the selection of Pahang as the host of this year's celebrations was an honour to the state.

Among the events lined up for the six-day celebrations are a sports meet and durian festival. -- Bernama