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Mahathir - foundation (pix)

MAHATHIR LAUNCHES FARMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight launched the Farmers Education Foundation to finance the education of farmers' children at all levels.

The foundation which would be the main education fund and scholarship awarding body of the National Farmers Organisation Authority would provide scholarships, bursaries and loans to farmers' children.

The foundation would also confer awards and prizes to outstanding children of farmers, build hostels for them in towns and build schools and private colleges and promote studies which would be of benefit to the farming community.

Dr Mahathir, expressed the hope that the foundation would help farmers' children who were really interested in their studies.

"The selected students should be really interested in studying otherwise it will be of no benefit," he said. -- more

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Mahathir - foundation 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said there were many organisations in Malaysia, which gave assistance to students to enable them to pursue their education but what was important was that such organisations should get beneficial returns from such aid.

Farmers Authority Chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman, said the setting up of the foundation was in line with the authority's objective to raise the standard of living of farmers so that they could be self-reliant.

He also said the authority had recorded a profit of more than RM25 million last year.

Rashid said the government had helped the Farmers Authority in many ways and pledged that farmers would continue to support the Barisan Nasional.

At the function, Dr Mahathir received a total of RM236,000 from various groups for the foundation.

Dr Mahathir also handed over the foundation's first bursaries to 11 children of farmers. -- Bernama

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