

CNS6978

R GE 06-08 00191 EA382

aae the

Mahathir-companies

FORM LARGE CORPORATIONS, MAHATHIR TELLS FARMERS, FISHERMEN

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug. 6 (Bernama) -- Farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen should form large corporations to meet the nation's need for food as well as for export, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad suggested today.

The Prime Minister said they need not worry about capital and management as they could mobilise their capital while management could be left to professionals.

"I feel in this modern age everything must be done on a large scale. The age when a small group of people produced food for a population of 19 million has ended," he told reporters after launching the National Farmers', Livestock Rearers' and Fishermen's Day celebrations at Stadium Negara, here.

Dr Mahathir said the farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen would be shareholders of the large corporations involved either in farming, animal husbandry or fishing.

The number of producers could be reduced in keeping with the times but the output should be able to meet domestic demand as well as for export, he added. -- more.

AH MTA LDB

▼06/08/16-06MST

CNS6980

R GE 06-08 00168 EA383

aae the

Mahathir-companies 2 Kuala Lumpur

He said the success of the concept could be seen in the United States where previously 95 per cent of the population were farmers, providing food for themselves and the remaining five per cent.

"With the setting up of large corporations, farmers now constitute only five per cent of the population yet they are able to provide food not only for themselves, but the rest of the population and for export," he added.

Dr Mahathir said professional manpower to manage the giant firms was available as the number of graduates from local and foreign universities was increasing annually.

"We can then seriously produce food for the increasing number of consumers," he said.

When the giant firms begin to show encouraging performance, the question of loans to expand their activities would not arise as banks and the government would not hesitate to help, he added. -- more.

AH MTA LDB

▼06/08/16-12MST

CNS6991

R GE 06-08 00153 EA384

aae tbe

Mahathir-companies 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said business conducted on a co-operative basis by farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen could not be managed as a professional one because of legal constraints.

"There is only one way in the modern age for farmers to survive, that is, to set up giant companies possessing the technology, ability to conduct research, capital and markets and packaging and other expertise," he added.

The agriculture industry in this modern age required large expenditure in order to be successful, he said.

The time when fishermen landed small catches had long gone; fishermen now needed large vessels of 500 and 600 tonnes to engage in deep-sea fishing.

He said farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen should keep pace with the changes so that they would not be left behind. -- Bernama

AH MTA LDB

▼06/08/16-35MST