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PM TO PRESENT CALVES TO ORGANISATIONS ON PARIL 18

JOHOR BA HARU, April 2 (Bernama) -- Six farmers and livestock breeders organisations in Johor will receive calves from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with his two-day visit to the state from April 18.

State Agriculture and Rural Development Committee chairman Datuk Sabariah Ahmad said today the calves were symbolic of the government's efforts to increase the state beef production.

She said Johor had about 47,000 head of cattle but was still short of fresh beef by about 11,000 tonnes a year.

Sabariah said the state government was seeking Felcra's cooperation for cattle breeding in its 240,000ha oil palm estates.

According to a study, 300,000 head of cattle could be bred in the area which should put Johor as the country's main beef producer, she said.

Johor has 27 Felcra schemes, most of which are oil palm estates involving 7,000 settlers. -- BERNAMA

BH HAR JK