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FARMERS HAVE FIELD DAY WITH PM

KEPALA BATAS, July 1 (Bernama) -- It was indeed a field day for vegetable growers in Lembah Raja in Pinang Tunggal near here when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad came calling.

In return for the premier's gesture they served Dr Mahathir with the fruits of their labour, namely "jambu madu" and showed off to him their longbean and cucumber plots.

The prime minister, who is on a two-day visit to Pulau Pinang, took time to mingle with the farmers who are participants in the Lembah Raja group vegetable farming scheme.

He was accompanied by his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also the Member of Parliament for Kepala Batas.

Earlier, Seberang Perai Utara District Officer Abdul Ghani Ariffin briefed the prime minister that the project involved 48 Chinese and 20 Malay farmers.

They each earned between RM900 and RM1,500 a month planting vegetables part-time.

Similar group vegetable farming schemes are also carried out in six other settlements here namely Kampung Setol, Kampung Ekor Kucing, Kampung Sungai Korok, Kampung Tasik, Kampung Pokok Jenerok and Kampung Baru.

Also present were Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and his deputy Datuk Sharif Omar.

-- BERNAMA

AHM RYN