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Mahathir-Farmers

NEW PROGRAMME TO RAISE LIVING STANDARD OF FARMERS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- The government will launch a new agricultural programme towards raising the living standard of the farmers after winning the 10th general election, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the incomes of rural and urban dwellers would be balanced with this new approach in developing the agricultural industry in the country.

This was aimed at totally eradicating poverty in the country, he said when launching Bernas' education fund for outstanding children of padi farmers at the Bukit Anak Bernas Complex, near here.

Dr Mahathir said: "What happened to padi farmers previously will not happen again now."

He said a victory with two-thirds majority for the Barisan nasional would enable the government to be more stable and this would facilitate any decision to champion the lot of the farmers.

The prime minister urged the padi farmers and padi planters not to be taken in by the propaganda of the opposition parties which only slandered and criticised the government's efforts to help them.

He said the opposition instigated the farmers and padi planters to hate the government although it had implemented various projects to improve their lot.

"They have done nothing to help the padi planters and farmers," he said.

The opposition, he added, also instigated the farmers and padi planters not to be thankful for the changes in their lives brought about by the Barisan Nasional government.

The Bernas education fund provides an initial allocation of RM2.5 million to finance the studies of 720 students in fully-aided government primary and secondary schools annually.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid.

-- BERNAMA

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