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Mahathir-Land

SHARE OWNERSHIP BETTER THAN LAND OWNERSHIP, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysians, especially Bumiputeras, must discard the thinking that land ownership is the way to become wealthy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Those who own shares are normally richer than landowners, especially if the land is not developed commercially.

"Actually, business and management abilities, and share ownership, are more significant than owning land," he said when opening the Malaysian Agricultural, Horticultural and Agro-Tourism (MAHA) Exhibition 2000 at the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil here.

The Prime Minister said there were good returns from plantations not because of direct ownership of the land but because of the ownership of shares in the plantation company.

He said that in advanced countries, the size of the land was not the factor that ensured a high yield, rather it was the management capability along with technology.

Malaysia, therefore, wished to introduce the mixed farming concept where the crops planted in a particular season is determined by the market, and where animals too can be reared on the land according to demand.

"For this, the Government has decided that local universities conduct training courses on managing the mixed farms. We will learn good management from the developed nations," said Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia's latest vision is to be able to produce sufficient food for itself and for export, in the most sophisticated and modern way.

The success of this vision depended on the use of technology and knowledge, he said.

"We must be prepared as otherwise we will be recolonised through food security, because our food won't be enough and we would need to import," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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