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Mahathir-Land

LAND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES TO BE CONTINUED, SAYS DR M

SIK, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government still continued with the land development schemes as it realised that the schemes brought immense benefits to the people especially the poor.

The prime minister said in fact the government had wanted to close down the Kedah Development Authority (Keda), Felda and Felcra as the people appeared to be angry with the government for opening the land schemes.

"Many settlers in the schemes were angry and hated the government. The government thought it has done something wrong by opening the schemes," he said.

To rectify the alleged mistake, the government wanted to close the schemes but the settlers in the schemes such as in Keda appealed to the government not to close it down as they were living in poverty, he told some 500 Keda settlers in Kota Aur, near here.

Dr Mahathir said Keda was to have been closed down this year but the government decided to extend its operations for another five years as the scheme benefited the poor.

Dr Mahathir stressed that Malaysians must be grateful and thankful for the benefits they enjoyed all this while.

He also advised settlers in land development schemes to strive to boost their income by planting crops like coffee, water melons and oranges.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir performed Friday prayers at the Kampung Sik Dalam mosque here.

-- BERNAMA

MAN ZZ JM