

30/09/2002

Message from the Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad

I WOULD like to congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture for successfully organising this Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism (MAHA) Expo.

I would also like to compliment and wish success to all farmers, fishermen and livestock breeders throughout the country and the winners in conjunction with this year's 27th National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen's Day Celebration. A celebration such as this is a recognition and honour from the Government to all farmers, fishermen and livestock breeders.

Despite Malaysia growing into a developed and modern nation, our country has vast natural resources, which is the basic source for agricultural activities. Transformation in the agricultural sector should be enhanced through the use of modern technology and automation, which will result in higher returns to entrepreneurs and the nation's economy.

The vision to transform Malaysia into a world producer and exporter of food products requires large investments and the private sector's management of commercial agricultural activities.

It is hoped that these efforts would be a foundation to expand the agriculture industry, which has enhanced value added products and competitiveness. Apart from incentives and various assistance from the Government, such as providing infrastructure, farmers, fishermen and livestock breeders must also improve their methods and transform their mindsets so that this sector is not looked down upon.

Self-resistance, creativity, innovation and an open mind to changes and development of technology are necessary to face global competition.

I hope MAHA would be able to provide a clear picture of the functions and role of the Government as a catalyst for the agricultural sector, which is much depended upon as a stimulator of the nation's economy and the prime supplier of food products to ensure a quality and harmonious