

18 APR 2003

Entrepreneur-Farmers

5,000 ENTREPRENEUR-FARMERS BY 2005

KANGAR, April 18 (Bernama) -- Five thousand entrepreneur-farmers will be created throughout the country by 2005 for the padi, vegetable and fruit planting sectors, livestock farming and food processing sectors.

Farmers Association Authority (LPP) director general Nozir Ahmad Hussain said 3000 such farmers have been produced since the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

He spoke to reporters at the end of a two-day visit here. He said these farmers were also members of the Agricultural Entrepreneurs Club - an elite outfit for the farming community.

There would also be organisational changes throughout Malaysia where general managers, for farming organisation at area level (PPK), would be chosen from among professionals with degree qualification instead of diploma as now.

There are now 48 such professionals leading the organisation and another 52 would be appointed to implement projects from the five agricultural sectors to be used as examples for farmers all over the country.

In Visit Perlis Year 2003-2005, he said the state would host the week-long National Livestock Breeders, Farmers, and Fishermen's Day to be launched by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

LPP also chose Perlis to host their national staff gathering at Universiti Teknologi Mara in Arau this May. LPP would also hold a Excellent Service Award Night next month.

Prior to this, Nozir was granted an audience with the acting Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin at Istana Arau today. He also called on Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

-- BERNAMA

AD PC