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Mahathir-Agriculture

USE SCIENCE TO RAISE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, SAYS TUN MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 17 (Bernama) -- A more methodical and scientific approach in agricultural research could help bring Malaysia's agriculture to the forefront, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

In fact, he said, agriculture's share in the economy could be greater, but this would require more agricultural scientists to develop new foods and medicines from plants.

"For this, we will need more sophisticated laboratories and a bigger research and development budget," he said in his acceptance speech on being conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang.

"Science does not deny the existence and power of God, and does not explain why but how.

"This distinction is made because many people do not understand what science is, and often treat it as a secular knowledge system that contradicts religion and therefore, unworthy of study," he said.

The study of genetics was important to increase agricultural production, he said, citing tissue culture which he said could help produce more food while reducing dependence on natural resources.

A total of 4,091 graduands received their scrolls from Chancellor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on the first day of UPM's 28th convocation.

They included 32 PhD, 381 Masters, 3,013 Bachelors and 665 diploma holders, as well as the first batch of 45 consumer science graduates.

-- BERNAMA

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