

U.N. VARSITY CAN HELP MALAYSIA PROGRESS: Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday expressed confidence that the United Nations University can help Malaysia to eradicate poverty among its people.

"Through its activities, I believe it can help us solve a problem close to our hearts — the eradication of poverty among our people, regardless of race and creed, so that each community shall have a fair share of the benefits our development programmes can bring," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in a

speech read out by the Secretary-General of the Education Ministry, Datuk Abdul Kadir bin Talib, at the opening of the United Nations Consultative meeting held at the University of Malaya here.

Research

He said the world has found the United Nations and its specialised agencies quite indispensable for its continued well-being and progress.

He added that the imperatives of technological, economic, political and social development have brought men to a point where he must think and operate on a glo-

bal basis.

Dr Mahathir felt that the U. N. University can be an effective instrument for mobilising the universities of the world in this cause.

"There are difficulties and uncertainties for those at the helm of such a vast undertaking.

"But there can be no doubt that the effort is a worthwhile one, and that it can help to solve problems like world hunger, the use of management and natural resources and the control and conservation of our environment," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the dissemination of knowledge gained in its activities was a most significant function of the Uni-

versity.

"While it may be true that those of us who are concerned with decision making and policy formulation can be overwhelmed with the plethora of knowledge that shows our desks, it is equally true, that specialisation of fields of interest interlocked with divisions of labour and authority, isolate us from information about the advances in general knowledge.

"Therefore, while some of us may be casualties of the knowledge explosion, it is possible that others may be victims of information malnutrition which can be equally malignant," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia hoped to participate fully in the activities of the U. N. University in all fields.

He was optimistic Malaysian scholars and researchers in the institutes of higher learning will participate fully in the University's programmes.