

PENANG, NOV. 14 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA, IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BE CENTRALLY COORDINATED.

BECAUSE OF SCARCITY OF RESOURCES BOTH IN TERMS OF FUNDS AND PERSONNEL, A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT WAS BETTER THAN AN INDEPENDENT LAISSEZ-FAIRE APPROACH, HE SAID.

OPENING THE FIFTH REGISTRARS' CONFERENCE FOR COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AREAS, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID:

+INDEPENDENT POLICIES BY ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES ARE LUXURIES WE CANNOT AFFORD. WITH THE LIMITED MANPOWER RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL, ONLY CENTRAL CONTROL AND PLANNING CAN ACHIEVE MAXIMUM RESULTS.

+WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THESE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF THE NATION AND WILL THUS PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM GOOD FOR THE MAXIMUM NUMBER. + -- BERNAMA MORE 1014/LK

HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNIVERSITIES HAD TO BE LOOKED AT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE NOW.

AS UNIVERSITIES WERE NOT NORMALLY MEANT TO BE OPERATED AS PROFIT-MAKING INSTITUTIONS AND WERE TO BE MANAGED EFFICIENTLY IN PURSUANCE OF THEIR ACADEMIC AND SERVICE OBJECTIVES, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REALISE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROFIT-MOTIVATED ORGANISATIONS AND SERVICE-ORIENTED ORGANISATIONS.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PHILOSOPHY WHICH GUIDED SERVICE ORGANISATIONS REQUIRED A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE.

THE COST ELEMENT AND THE RESULTS EXPECTED MIGHT BEAR RELATIONS THAT WERE QUITE INCOMPATIBLE WITH MANAGEMENT FOR PROFIT.

— BERNAMA 1016/LK

MAHATHIR 3 PENANG RE-OPENS ITEM 004)

ABOUT 50 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS FROM THE FIVE UNIVERSITIES IN MALAYSIA, UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, NANYANG UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH PACIFIC, THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES AND THE INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, THE AUSTRALIAN VICE-CHANCELLORS' COMMITTEE AND THE NEW ZEALAND VICE-CHANCELLORS' COMMITTEE ARE ATTENDING THE SIX-DAY CONFERENCE.

PRESENT AT THE OPENING WERE PENANG CHIEF MINISTER, DR. LIM CHONG EU, AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE USM COUNCIL, DATUK MOHAMED YEOP ABDUL RAOF.

AFTER OPENING THE CONFERENCE, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR VISITED THE USM'S COMPUTER UNIT.

THE USM VICE-CHANCELLOR, TAN SRI DATUK HAJI HAMDAN SHEIKH TAHIR, IN HIS BRIEFING, SAID THAT THE UNIVERSITY ADOPTED A CENTRALISED MEDIUM-SIZED COMPUTER SYSTEM COSTING ABOUT \$1.8 MILLION, WHICH STARTED OPERATING FROM APRIL, 1975.

PRIOR TO THIS, AS A STOP-GAP MEASURE, IT RENTED A SMALL COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR 18 MONTHS TO PROVIDE COMPUTING FACILITIES FOR TEACHING PURPOSES ONLY.

THE COMPUTER CENTRE PROVIDES PRACTICAL TRAINING FACILITIES TO STUDENTS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND CONDUCTS SPECIAL COMPUTER APPLICATION AND APPRECIATION COURSES FOR VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL GROUPS. — BERNAMA 1323/YF