

MAHATHIR-CEPSI

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 1 (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA'S STRATEGY ON ENERGY IS NOT TO BE DEPENDENT ON A SINGLE ENERGY SOURCE BUT ON A BROAD-BASED FOUR-FUEL ECONOMY — OIL, HYDRO POWER, GAS COAL — ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

HE SAID: +WE ARE EMBARKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMME+, BEING NOT ENTIRELY SELF-SUFFICIENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 5-DAY THIRD FAR EAST CONFERENCE ON ELECTRIC POWER AND SUPPLY INDUSTRY. THE CONFERENCE IS BEING ATTENDED BY ABOUT 300 DELEGATES FROM 15 COUNTRIES.

HE SAID CONSERVATION OF ENERGY WAS A VITAL CONCERN TO MALAYSIA AS 85 PER CENT OF POWER PRESENTLY GENERATED WAS DEPENDENT ON OIL.

THE RECENT TARIFF REVISION HAD BEEN AIMED AT POWER CONSERVATION, AND FOR CONSUMERS USING MORE THAN 200,000 UNITS PER MONTH, A SURCHARGE WAS PROPOSED, WHICH WAS ALSO AIMED AT REDUCING CARELESS AND WASTEFUL USE, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA MORE 1343/MD

NO14 (F)
MAHATHIR-CEPSI 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER LATER TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE PROPOSED SURCHARGE WAS AIMED AT BING CONSUMERS LIKE MANUFACTURERS AND FACTORIES.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME FACTORIES WHICH COULD NOT CUT DOWN FURTHER ON THEIR ENERGY CONSUMPTION, BUT THERE WERE OTHER AREAS IN WHICH THEY COULD ECONOMISE.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN JAPAN, THERE WERE MANUFACTURERS WHO HAD CUT DOWN ON THEIR AIR-CONDITIONING, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR USE ALTERNATIVE FUELS (OTHER THAN OIL), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEY WOULD REQUIRE MASSIVE INVESTMENTS TO BE WORTHWHILE.

A NATIONAL SOLUTION ALONE MIGHT THEREFORE BE QUITE INADEQUATE.

+TO HAVE THE ADVANTAGES OF ECONOMIES OF SCALE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS MAY BE NECESSARY. AND REGIONAL SOLUTIONS MAY MEAN ALSO REGIONAL POWER SYSTEMS SUCH AS THE ASEAN POWER GRID+.

HE SAID STEPS WERE ALREADY TAKEN TO INTERCONNECT THE NEB POWER SYSTEM WITH THE SYSTEMS OPERATED BY THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING AUTHORITY OF THAILAND AND THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD OF SINGAPORE IN THE SPIRIT OF ASEAN REGIONAL COOPERATION.

+TH NEXT STEP IS TO INTERCONNECT WITH INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES+, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA MORE 1350/MD

MAHATHIR-CEPSI 3 KUALA LUMPUR

REFERRING TO THE HOME FRONT, THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SECOND SOLUTION WAS THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN SARAWAK AND PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

SARAWAK BEING ENDOWED WITH VAST HYDRO ELECTRIC POTENTIAL, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THEORETICALLY 190 TERA WATT HOUR (TWH) OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY PER ANNUM.

BY AND LARGE, THE BIGGEST INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE AT THE PELAGUS RAPIDS WHERE A SINGLE DAM ACROSS THE RIVER GORGE COULD PRODUCE 1400 MEGAWATTS AND SOME NINE TWH AVERAGE ANNUAL ENERGY.

THE EXISTING MAXIMUM DEMAND IN SARAWAK, HE ADDED, WAS LESS THAN 100 MEGAWATTS AND THEREFORE, IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT THIS HYDRO POWER BE EXPORTED TO PENINSULAR MALAYSIA BY A DIRECT-CURRENT SUBMARINE CABLE TRANSMISSION LINK.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HITHERTO THE USE OF WATER POWER WAS LIMITED TO THE BIG HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS, AND ABOUT 15 PER CENT OF ELECTRICAL POWER IN THE COUNTRY WAS GENERATED BY THIS MEANS. —BERNAMA MORE 1414/BY

MAHATHIR-CEPSI 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN TO INSTAL MINI HYDRO SCHEMES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO TAP EVERY AVAILABLE SOURCE OF HYDRO POWER.

+ALREADY 120 POTENTIAL MINI HYDRO PROJECTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. WHEN COMPLETED THEY WILL PROVIDE SOME RELIEF TO THE NATIONAL SYSTEM+, HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY FROM WASTE AS NO +LAUGHING MATTER+, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA FOR EXAMPLE, BURNT +HUGE MOUNTAINS+ OF RICE HUSKS YEARLY, CREATING POLLUTION WITHOUT TANGIBLE BENEFITS.

+IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED THAT THIS WASTED HEAT SHOULD BE USED TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY FOR THE USE OF RICE MILLS AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS+, HE ADDED, AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT OTHER WASTE COULD BE SIMILARLY USED.

EARLIER, IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, TAN SRI ABU ZARIM HAJI OMAR, SAID AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE PREVIOUS MEETING IN HONG KONG, THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE HAD PREPARED A DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO PUT THE CEPSI CONFERENCE UNDER A NEW NAME IF NECESSARY, ON A PERMANENT BASIS WITH THE SETTING UP OF A SECRETARIAT. —BERNAMA MORE 1418/BY

MAHATHIR-CEPSI 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE SECRETARIAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONDUCT OF FUTURE CONFERENCES.

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, TAN SRI ABU ZARIM, WHO IS ALSO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE NEB, SAID HAD SET ASIDE THREE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, AND HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE END OF THE CONFERENCE.

A TOTAL OF 74 PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING ARE THAILAND, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, CHINA, HONG KONG, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, BRUNEI AND MALAYSIA. —BERNAMA 1420/BY

174