

MAHATHIR-COMPUTER

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA)— DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS CALLED ON THE COMPUTER COMMUNITY TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO MAP OUT A STRUCTURAL PLAN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS.

+IF THIS (THE PLAN) IS ACCEPTED, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES CAN BE DEVELOPED FOR ALL OR CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PLAN,+ HE SAID AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE MALAYSIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY AT THE LAKE CLUB HERE LAST NIGHT.

HE SAID THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY +WE WILL WITNESS OVER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN PERIOD A MAJOR EFFORT OF COMPUTERISATION IN THE COUNTRY.+

+IT PROMISES TO BE AN EXCITING PERIOD FOR THE (COMPUTER) COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRY+, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT AT PRESENT COMPUTER TRAINING WAS LAGGING FAR BEHIND DEMAND.

A CONSERVATIVE STUDY LAST YEAR REVEALED THAT THE PROJECTED DEMAND FOR SYSTEM ANALYSTS AND PROGRAMMERS WOULD BE ABOUT 500 A YEAR AND THE COUNTRY WOULD REQUIRE BETWEEN 4,800 AND 5,000 SYSTEM ANALYSTS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS.—BERNAMA MORE 1152/AH

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HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE THE ROLE AND FOUNDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND POSITIONS WERE MORE OR LESS BALANCED, AS IT COULD OTHERWISE HAMPER THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTERISATION IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE BY DEVELOPING SUITABLE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR COMPUTER PERSONNEL THUS COMPLEMENTING THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS ANY CONCRETE PROPOSAL FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS A TEMPORARY AND SHORT TERM MEASURE BEFORE THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER INSTITUTE.

+STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORMULATED TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO MADE THE INITIAL INVESTMENT IN DETERMINING WHETHER IT WOULD BE PRACTICAL TO INVEST IN A NATIONAL INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM.—BERNAMA MORE 1158/AH

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+THE EARLY FINDINGS. INDICATE THAT THE PROJECT IS FEASIBLE AND WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE INITIAL PLANS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, + HE ADDED.

+CONCURRENTLY, AN INITIAL STUDY ON A MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR STATE LEVEL AND PROJECT PLANNING HAS BEEN MADE AND THIS WILL BE INCORPORATED WITHIN THE NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM PROPOSED.

+A MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IS BEING PLANNED, INCLUDING A SYSTEM FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

+THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO ENHANCE AND ENLARGE THE COMPUTER APPLICATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHICH IS ALREADY A SOPHISTICATED USER OF COMPUTERS IN THE COUNTRY. +--BERNAMA, 1201/AH