

UNIVERSITY

32 (P)
BUKIT FRASER, JULY 13 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED THE SITE FOR THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY NEAR BENTONG ABOUT 32 KM FROM GENTING HIGHLANDS IN PAHANG.

PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO VIEWED THE SITE FROM A HELICOPTER TODAY, TOLD REPORTERS THE SITE WAS CHOSEN AS BEING MORE SUITABLE THAN ANOTHER ONE LOCATED HERE.

THE SITE, LOCATED BETWEEN BUKIT PELASUNG AND GUNUNG TELANG, WAS LESS STEEP AND WOULD THEREFORE, MEAN LOWER COST TO BUILD THE UNIVERSITY.

THERE IS ALREADY AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE SITE, WITH A POWER LINE NEARBY.

IT IS ALSO SCENICALLY ATTRACTIVE, WITH SEVERAL LOW HILLS, STREAMS AND A WATERFALL.

AT AN ELEVATION OF BETWEEN 3,500 AND 4,500 FEET, IT IS ALSO PLEASANTLY COOL COMPARED TO THE LOWLAND. -- MORE 1820/MS

UNIVERSITY-2 BUKIT FRASER

THE CHOICE OF THE SITE WILL NO DOUBT BRING JOY TO THE PEOPLE OF BENTONG DISTRICT WHO HAVE BEEN LOBBYING FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO BE LOCATED IN THEIR AREA SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT, EARLY THIS YEAR THAT THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY WOULD BE BUILT SOMEWHERE ON THE CENTRAL RANGE.

SEVERAL AREAS WERE PROPOSED, SIX IN RAUB DISTRICT ALSO LOBBYING FOR THE SITE, AND ONE IN BENTONG DISTRICT WHICH WAS THE ONE CHOSEN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS BRIEFED BY PWD DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DATUK MOHAMED YUSOFF YUNUS, ON THE LOCATION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE SHORTLISTED TWO SITES AT GUNUNG TELANG AND HERE BEFORE THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND WORKS AND UTILITIES WOULD BEGIN DETAILED SURVEYS OF THE SITE SOON, WORKING WITH CONTINGENCY FUNDS FIRST WHILE THE MAIN ALLOCATIONS WOULD BE MADE NEXT YEAR.

HE ADDED THAT A PROJECT OF THIS NATURE WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO COMPLETE. HOWEVER THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF WOULD BE LAUNCHED NEXT YEAR WITH COURSES IN ECONOMICS AND LAW.

IT WOULD INITIALLY, PROBABLY BE HOUSED IN THE ISLAMIC COLLEGE IN PETALING JAYA.--BERNAMA 1855/HM