

MAHATHIR-PUSPATI
BM

84
BANGI, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL DEVELOP THE TUN ISMAIL ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE (PUSPATI) HERE AS ONE OF THE FOREMOST RESEARCH CENTRE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

BEFORE PUSPATI BECAME SUCH A CENTRE IN THIS REGION, ITS ROLE AND SCOPE SHOULD BE UPGRADED, HE ADDED.

MALAYSIA WELCOMED ANY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE CENTRE, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A FIVE-HOUR VISIT TO THE COMPLEX.

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED THE ASSISTANCE FROM THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF TRAINING FACILITIES FOR MALAYSIAN OFFICERS AT THE COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR ENERGY CENTRE.

IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF COOPERATION MALAYSIA WAS TRAINING OFFICERS FROM BANGLADESH AT PUSPATI. THE OFFICERS WOULD LATER WORK ON A SIMILAR RESEARCH CENTRE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, HE SAID. --MORE 1636/HM
NNNN

ZCZC NO 68 (F/S)
MAHATHIR-LPUSPATI 2 BANGI

THE CENTRE WAS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION PARTICULARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND MEDICAL SECTORS, HE SAID.

WITH THE DILIGENCE AND DEDICATION SHOWN BY THE OFFICERS, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT PUSPATI WOULD PLAY A BIGGER ROLE TO FURTHER RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE WAS MAKING USE OF THE RESEARCH FACILITIES AT PUSPATI. --MORE 1641/HM

MAHATHIR-PUSPATI 4 BANGI

EARLIER IN BRIEFING THE PRIME MINISTER THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY UNIT, PROF. DATUK GHAZALI BIN ABDUL RAHMAN SAID THE UNIT'S SCOPE OF WORK HAD CHANGED A LITTLE WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME FROM THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

THE UNIT'S ACTIVITIES AT PRESENT INCLUDED THOSE OF PUSPATI AND THE THE NUCLEAR ENERGY AND POWER DIVISION WHICH WAS FORMERLY UNDER THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY, HE SAID.

HE SAID TO BECOME AN INDUSTRIAL NATION, MALAYSIA MUST INTRODUCE MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURING SECTORS TO RAISE EFFICIENCY AND DEVELOP THE NATION'S ECONOMY.

THE UNIT MUST UNDERTAKE PROJECTS WHICH WOULD LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR LONG TERM GAINS, HE ADDED.

HE LISTED A NUMBER OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNIT AS PART OF EFFORTS TO FURTHER UPGRADE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE NATION.

THIS INCLUDED THE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME IN ANTICIPATION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NATION WOULD ENTER THE NUCLEAR POWER ERA IN THE FUTURE. --MORE 1655/WS

MAHATHIR-PUSPATI 3 BANGI

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF USING NUCLEAR POWER AS ONE OF THE SOURCES OF ENERGY IN THE COUNTRY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PROPOSE TO DO THIS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE OTHER ABUNDANT SOURCES OF ENERGY PARTICULARLY HYDROPOWER. FOR INSTANCE THE HYDRO-ELECTRICITY PROJECT BEING DEVELOPED IN BAKO SARAWAK WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY 3,500 MEGAWATTS.

THIS REPRESENTED TWICE THE POWER REQUIREMENTS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PROPOSE TO HAVE A NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT PRESENT BUT HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING ONE IN THE FUTURE. --MORE 1647/HM

HE STRESSED THE NEED TO DEVELOP EXPERTISE GROUPS IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FIELDS INCLUDING APPLIED PHYSICS INCORPORATING NEUTRON PHYSICS AND REACTOR PHYSICS.

OTHER PROGRAMMES OF THE UNIT INCLUDED DEVELOPMENT OF ISOTOPE LASER AND RAY USAGE IN INDUSTRY, BIOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE, NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTATION AND COMPUTERS.

WHILE AT THE CENTRE, THE PRIME MINISTER WATCHED A DOCUMENTARY FILM BEFORE TOURING THE VARIOUS SECTIONS INCLUDING THE REACTOR BUILDING, THE RADIOISOTOPE PRODUCTION LABORATORY, ENGINEERING WORKSHOP AND RESIDUE TREATMENT CENTRE.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT; DATUK DR. JAMES ONGKILI, CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT TAN SRI HASHIMAMAN, AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT TAN SRI OSMAN CASSIM.

BERNAMA 1717 /WS