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SENATE-RESEARCH

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 15 (BERNAMA) -- A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION CENTRE HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN TO BOOST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE SETTING UP OF THE CENTRE WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION REGARDING SCIENTIFIC MANPOWER, RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND THE POSITION OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, HE SAID.

THE INFORMATION WOULD DO AWAY WITH DUPLICATION AND WASTAGE AND FURTHER STREAMLINE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY, HE TOLD SEN ABDUL GHANI OTHMAN IN THE DEWAN NEGARA.

THE SENATOR HAD ASKED WHAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO COORDINATE THE CAPABILITIES AND MANPOWER FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE UNIVERSITIES SO AS TO DETERMINE A DIRECTION FOR SUCH EFFORTS AND TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND WASTAGE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AMONG THE MEASURES WERE EFFORTS BY THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY TO HAVE A DATA BASE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANPOWER IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AS WELL AS IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. -- MORE
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HE SAID THAT UNDER THE FMP, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET OUT THE PERCENTAGE FOR THE TYPES OF RESEARCH THAT SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITIES, GOVERNMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND PRIVATE RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

+THE UNIVERSITIES ARE REQUIRED TO CONCENTRATE ON APPLIED AND BASIC RESEARCH AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INSTITUTES ON DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED RESEARCH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING INTO PROPOSALS UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL MASTER PLAN TO SEE WHETHER NEW INSTITUTES SHOULD BE SET UP OR THE EXISTING INSTITUTES BE EXPANDED TO UNDERTAKE THE NEW EFFORTS.

TO A QUERY FROM SEN TOH MUDA DR ABDULLAH FADZIL CHE WAN ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE \$400 MILLION ALLOCATED UNDER THE FMP FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THE AMOUNT WAS ADEQUATE. -- BERNAMA
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