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MAHATHIR-CAMPUS

BM

JITRA, DEC 10 (BERNAMA) -- CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA (UUM) PERMANENT CAMPUS IN SINTOK NEAR THE MALAYSIA-THAILAND BORDER WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE UUM TEMPORARY CAMPUS IN TANJONG PAUH NEAR HERE, HE SAID 465 MILLION HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR THE PURPOSE.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS EARLIER BRIEFED ON THE UNIVERSITY'S ACTIVITIES BY VICE-CHANCELLOR TAN SRI PROF AWANG HAD SALLEH, IS SATISFIED WITH UUM'S ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT FOUR YEARS AGO.

HE SAID THE ENROLMENT HAD NOW INCREASED TO 1,600 STUDENTS, ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT AN ASSESSMENT NEEDED TO BE MADE ON THE GRADUATES. THE UNIVERSITY PRODUCED ITS FIRST BATCH OF 18 GRADUANDS THIS YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKADR SITI HASMAH ALI, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND HIS WIFE, LATER ATTENDED TWO WEDDINGS AT KAMPUNG JENATIK, CHANGLON, AND TOKAI IN PENDANG. -- MORE

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MEANWHILE- TAN SRI PROF AWANG TOLD REPORTERS THE UNIVERSITY WOULD MOVE TO SINTOK IN 1990 AND NOT NEXT YEAR AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED AS THE FIRST PHASE WOULD START ONLY NEXT YEAR.

HE ALSO SAID UUM WOULD INTRODUCE THREE NEW DISCIPLINES -- INFORMATICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS -- AT THE PERMANENT CAMPUS. IT CURRENTLY OFFERS THREE FIELDS OF STUDY AT THE TANJONG PAUH CAMPUS.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PERMANENT CAMPUS WILL CONSIST OF THE ADMINISTRATION BLOCK, COMPUTER SCIENCE SCHOOL AND STUDENTS' HOSTEL.

TAN SRI PROF AWANG SAID THAT DURING THE BRIEFING, HE EXPLAINED TO THE PRIME MINISTER PROBLEMS FACED BY THE UNIVERSITY, ESPECIALLY THE SHORTAGE OF ACADEMIC STAFF.

THE UNIVERSITY IS FACING A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF PROFESSORS -- ONLY TWO OF ITS 79 ACADEMIC STAFF HANDLING 1,600 STUDENTS ARE PROFESSORS. -- MORE

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HE SAID UUM PRACTISED AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF STUDY REQUIRING SUFFICIENT AND EFFICIENT STAFF.

THE UNIVERSITY IS ALSO IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT QUALITY STUDIES.

THE PROJECTS INCLUDE AN ENTREPRENEURS' CLINIC AND UUM HAS SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF TWO PROFESSORS, FROM BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON SMALL-SCALE ENTREPRENEURS IN MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA

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