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Mahathir-UTP

MALAYSIA HAS BECOME INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM OPERATOR THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

BANDAR SERI ISKANDAR, Perak, April 1 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia has become a renowned international petroleum operator because it has been wise enough to learn and master the relevant petroleum technology and knowledge in the field.

"In view of this wise approach, even though we have only small reserves of oil, still we have been successful in becoming a renowned international petroleum operator," the former Prime Minister said during his installation as the Chancellor of the Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) at its campus here.

He said Malaysia did not opt for the easy way by allowing others to extract the oil and the country just waiting to collect the money from its sale.

Dr Mahathir said this was different from the situation in several other countries which had been endowed with a variety of natural resources but their peoples did not benefit in anyway due to the lack of knowledge and instead were left depending on others to exploit the resources.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Petronas Adviser, was conferred an honorary doctorate in Engineering and Technoloyg at a special convocation held in conjunction with the installation.

Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and the UTP's two Pro Chancellors Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin and Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican were also present.

Turning to local institutions of higher learning, Dr Mahathir said at present there were 17 government universities in the country compared to just five in the past and so the opportunities were wide open to all to acquire and master knowledge in all fields.

This university (UTP) was one of the side benefits that had

accrued
from this important petroleum industry which itself would not have
come
about without the relevant knowledge in engineering, geology,
mathematics
and other disciplines, Dr Mahathir said.

He expressed the hope that the UTP would contribute towards
enhancing
the country's efficiency and knowledge in the mineral industry and
also
enable foreign students to help their countries develop the natural
resources for their benefit.

The former Prime Minister reminded Malaysians that there was no
limit
to acquiring knowledge, with all the modern facilities available to
them
such as the Internet and the universal system of writing.

-- BERNAMA
AR AR AAM