

# Industries hold the key to jobs

By NOR HAWA YUNUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia can no longer rely on the agricultural and mining sectors to create jobs.

Future employment opportunities are in industrialisation.

"There is no limit to the diversity and opportunities in manufacturing. The only way we can grow and prosper is through industrialisation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the scope for jobs in agriculture and mining was not only limited by land and resources but also by increased mechanisation.

The Prime Minister was opening the seventh joint annual conference of the Malaysian-Japanese Economic Association (Majeca/Jemeca) here.

Dr Mahathir said emphasis on industrialisation becomes more apparent as Malaysia's labour force would reach nearly 6.3 million by 1985 while its working-age population would grow to 9.3 million in 1985 from 8.1 million in 1980.

In 1985, 2.6 million or 41.1 per cent of the total labour force would also be in the 25-39 age group and the number is expected to increase by 4.9 per cent per annum.

Malaysia, therefore, had to adopt certain development strategies that would provide "gainful employment to our rapidly growing work force."

Dr Mahathir said the Look East policy fits into Malaysia's long-term industrialisation programmes.

He added that to improve the management of labour resources, the Government had initiated five types of training programmes for youths, namely in-plant training, academic/technical education, executive development training, institutional linkages in research and development, training institutes and administration.

The first three are ongoing programmes while the last two are in the preparatory stage.

These programmes would be stepped up as more information on the effectiveness of each is being compiled.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia welcomes outside assistance to modernise its small-scale industries.

He said large-, medium- and small-scale industries must develop in such a way that they would reinforce the strength of each other.

"They must be mutually beneficial to one another so that all the sectors of the economy would prosper and productivity enhanced," he said.