

PM wants Malaysia fully

By Noorzita Samad

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — An ambitious target has been set for Malaysia to become a developed nation by the year 2020, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Malaysia should strive for total development in all aspects and not only in the economic field.

"We should be developed not only in the economic sense but also politically, socially, spiritually and

psychologically," he told a Press conference after chairing the inaugural meeting of the Malaysian Business Council (MBC).

He hoped that by the year 2020, Malaysia would be a united nation, with a confident society infused with strong moral and ethical values.

This vision of the Prime Minister is elaborated in a keynote address entitled "Malaysia: The Way Forward" which he delivered

at the MBC meeting earlier. The 62-member council today endorsed the Prime Minister's vision.

Dr Mahathir told reporters that Malaysia should not copy other developed countries like the United Kingdom or the United States in the process of becoming a developed nation.

"We want to be a developed country, but we should develop along our own concept of development, not base it upon other

nations," he said.

The Prime Minister explained that various challenges to the country have been identified — the formation of a united Malay-

□ MORE REPORTS
IN P2 & P15

sian nation with a sense of common and shared destiny.

He said that the focus should be a psychologically liberated, secure and devel-

developed by 2020

oped Malaysian society.

Explaining the contents of his address, Dr Mahathir said attention should be directed to the rate of economic growth the nation wants to achieve and how the co-operation between Government and the private sector be best achieved.

Responding to a question whether the thrust of his address was the post-New Economic Policy, the Prime Minister said it concentrated on certain areas

like the political aspects of the economy and the need to balance the development of the different races and the eradication of poverty.

He explained that the address concentrated on the development of Malaysia and the need to bring Bumiputeras into the mainstream was stressed.

He said: "We feel that since more than half of the population are made up of Bumiputeras it will result in a loss of manpower if

half of the population does not participate in the development of the country.

"So my address was not incompatible with whatever new economic policy that we will formulate to replace NEP," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he does not think that anybody is against the eradication of poverty and that this has been accepted by everybody, regardless of race.

He said efforts must be continued to remove the

identification of race economics.

Explaining the formation of the Malaysian Business Council the Prime Minister said this council is not a secret council and that members are allowed to speak freely to the Press.

"In fact, they are allowed to speak to anybody and members of the council feel that the widest publicity should be given to the discussions, the proposals or the decisions," he said.