

PM: 2020 goal must be fully understood

BT 20 MAY 1991

By AZAM ARIS

THE country's aspiration to achieve a developed nation status by the year 2020 needs to be fully understood by the State Governments and the people before it can be implemented effectively.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a four-day visit to Sarawak, said that like "20/20" vision, the Government and the people need to see "eye to eye" this aspiration so that Malaysia can become a technology-oriented country.

"This is not impossible to achieve but the people need to work hard. There is no point in having a good plan or policy if it cannot be implemented effectively," he said after attending a briefing by State Development Director Dr Nik Ibrahim Nik Mahmud in Kuching yesterday.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was briefed on Sarawak's overall development plan up to the year 2000, its performance during the Fifth Malaysia Plan, and the allocation proposed for the state under the Sixth Malaysia Plan.

The briefing was also attended by a majority of the Cabinet members. The Cabinet will have its weekly meeting in Kuching today. This is the second time a Cabinet meeting is being held outside Kuala Lumpur. Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abdul Taib Mahmud was also present.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is confident that the development target set by the Government is within reach.

"The colonialists left this country without much development. But within a short period, we have on our own successfully developed this nation.

"What we have to do now is to maintain political stability and racial harmony so that economic growth can be further sustained."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he is impressed with the development achieved by Sarawak, and the Federal Government will continue to support the State Government in its quest to develop the state.

Later, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir visited a home centre in Kuching where several examples of prefabricated wooden houses made from local timber were on display.