

Mahathir: That 2020 vision not impossible

By Ahmad A. Talib and James Ritchie

KUCHING, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said his vision of a developed Malaysia by the year 2020 is not impossible to achieve, provided everyone understands the concept and implements it effectively.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia could be a country with high technological capabilities comparable with other countries, an ambition within reach of the people.

He stressed this point in a short speech given at the end of an hour-long closed door meeting on development strategy and programmes in Sarawak at

Wisma Bapa Malaysia, Petra Jaya, here this afternoon. The briefing was given by State Development Director Dr Nik Ibrahim Nik Mahmood.

Also present at the briefing were Federal Cabinet Ministers and Sarawak State Cabinet members led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Dr Mahathir said the people must make an effort to fully comprehend every aspect of the vision — as clear as a person with 20-20 eyesight — so that the nation's long-term development plans could be realised.

He added that many development plans made by the Government had succeeded, giving substance to his belief that a fully developed Malaysia in 2020 is

very much a clear possibility.

To ensure that the vision is realised, Dr Mahathir said the country's political stability, an essential ingredient for enduring economic progress, must be maintained. In this regard, racial harmony must be strengthened, he added.

The Prime Minister said the Federal Government would continue to provide aid to Sarawak to ensure the State's continued economic growth.

Earlier, Tan Sri Taib welcomed the Prime Minister's visit saying it would spur the State to more success.

He told newsmen that the Prime Minister was impressed with the city's future development plans.