

Cabinet approves OPP report

By Wong Chun Wai

KUCHING, Wed. — The Cabinet approved in principle today the Second Outline Perspective Plan (OPP) which will form the basis of the new programme to replace the New Economic Policy.

The Prime Minister said the OPP proposals, in which the interests of Malaysians of all races had been considered, were

unanimously accepted by Cabinet members.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that during the five-hour meeting here, Cabinet members brought up several matters on the OPP but generally everyone was satisfied with the proposals.

"We have taken into account the views of all Cabinet members who represent the various races and parties," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Cabinet would at its next meeting brush up parts of the OPP report.

He said the redrafted copy would contain certain minor amendments that the Cabinet had agreed to today and that the report would be formally approved next week.

Some changes would be made to the wordings to ensure accuracy.

The report, which was prepared by the Economic Planning Unit in the PM's Department, had taken into account the country's economy and its projected growth, he said.

He said that the EPU had also considered the views of the National Economic Consultative Council and that the Cabinet had decided to include certain aspects of its report into the OPP report.

He said that the thrust of the OPP would be to help realise the vision of a developed Malaysia by the year 2020.

"Development programmes will be accelerated with equal emphasis on national unity," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that he would table the proposals in Parliament next month while Transport Minister and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik would second it.

(The new policy on the economy, to be called the New Development Plan, will be for 10 years).

The Prime Minister also sought the co-operation of the mass media for positive reports on the matter.

Stressing the importance of a united Malaysia, he said the country was a multi-racial one and that compromise was an important element in resolving any issue.

"We should not just think of our own needs and interests but also those of the other races as well," he said.

He also said the Cabinet had decided that the MCA's proposed cultural city project would no longer be debated in the media.

He expressed confidence that the matter could be resolved within the Cabinet without any publicity that could lead to misunderstanding.