

PM: Efforts to eradicate poverty, restructure society will continue

# Towards a more just and united society

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The New Development Policy to be presented to Parliament on June 17 will emphasise balanced economic growth as a means of creating a more united and just Malaysian society.

Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today efforts to eradicate poverty and restructure society would continue to be the thrust of the policy.

Dr Mahathir said 1991 was a crucial year for the nation as the Outline Perspective Plan (OPP), which encompasses the New Development Policy, would also be presented.

The Prime Minister said this in his congratulatory speech and pledge of loyalty to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah on His Majesty's 63rd birthday at the Istana Negara here.

The OPP would guide development in the present decade through the year 2000 more effectively, he added.

Dr Mahathir noted that peace and stability had contributed towards encourag-

ing economic growth and development.

Economic growth for this year was expected to exceed eight per cent for the fourth successive year, the Prime Minister said, adding that the Government would continue to provide an excellent investment climate to draw more private sector capital input.

Dr Mahathir said the Government's sincerity in wanting the private sector to be the engine of growth was reflected in the stepping up of privatisation efforts.

He added that one of the major undertakings to be privatised this year was the National Electricity Board with the formation of Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

"Steps are also being taken to overcome problems brought about by rapid economic growth like the shortage of workers in certain sectors of the economy and pressures on infrastructural facilities," Dr Mahathir said.

The Government would ensure that the country's financial position continued to remain sound by adopt-

ing austerity measures while keeping expenditure in check. This policy has served the country well, Dr Mahathir said.

On the Government's plan to make Malaysia a developed nation by 2020, he said the move had been well-received by the people.

He pointed out that the objective of the 2020 vision was not solely to enable Malaysia to achieve high industrial growth but was also intended to ensure that the people enjoyed a better life.

"I am convinced that this goal is not beyond us. What is needed is for everyone to understand the concept fully and implement it effectively," he added.

Dr Mahathir was confident that the objective could be achieved with the guidance and advice of the King and the co-operation of all concerned — the Government, private sector and the people.

Dr Mahathir said he was pleased to inform the King

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## King given assurance

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that the nation's overall security situation was good and well under control.

The Prime Minister said: "Nevertheless, the Government will continue to be vigilant to ensure that national security is not threatened by any quarter."

He said the Government was proud that the King showed serious concern for

the functions of Ministries, departments and agencies through visits and briefings.

Such concerns would help spur civil servants to strive to deliver quality services to the people.

He assured the King that all Government employees would strive to further improve the Government's administrative efficiency for the good of the nation.

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