

AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT YESTERDAY

# 2020 vision 'is for all'

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**By K.H. Lim,  
Jeffrey Ramayah  
and Razak Chik**

OPPOSITION leaders have also benefited from the development programmes implemented by the Government although they have the tendency to criticise these policies. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said some Opposition leaders, in their exuberance to criticise, had forgotten that the Government had a responsibility of bringing development for the benefit

of the people.

Replying to Encik Ahmad Nor (DAP-Bayan Baru) who wanted to know whether Vision 2020 was a political strategy to garner support from the people, Dr Mahathir said: "It is the responsibility of the Government to plan and implement development programmes while the success of it depended on the efforts of the people.

"If the people appreciate these efforts and continue to support the Barisan Nasional, it is not the Government's fault."

He said the Government

could not guarantee the success of Vision 2020 but would continue with its efforts and programmes towards making Malaysia a developed country in 30 years although the Opposition continues to criticise the Government's every move.

"We are disappointed with the negative reaction from some people about the Government's efforts which are carried out to benefit the people.

"Many supporters of the opposition have benefited from scholarships and job opportunities provided by

the Barisan Nasional," he said.

He cited an example in Bayu, Kedah, where Universiti Sains Malaysia undergraduates who receive aid from the Barisan Nasional Government were being manipulated by Opposition parties to carry out smear campaigns against the Barisan Nasional.

"Although the Barisan Nasional is disappointed with the negative reaction, the ruling coalition would continue in its efforts to bring more development to the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Gov-

ernment had come out with the 2020 Vision not for the benefit of the Barisan Nasional but for the people and the country.

"Although Malaysia has made considerable progress in the manufacturing sector, there is still much more to achieve," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Vision 2020 concept was not against Islam since its implementation was in line with Islamic teachings that the Government was responsible to bring about development to benefit the people.