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Mahathir-population "

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*Dr. M - 70 million population policy*  
KUALA LUMPUR, July 10<sup>91</sup> (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir-Mohamad said the nation need not hurry to increase its population but should instead reduce the current growth rate.

The Prime Minister said the current growth rate of, 2.4 per cent or 450,000 people annually could result in deterioration of living standards unless the country's economic growth outstripped population growth.

By 1995, the population of Malaysia was expected to reach 20.3 million, he said when tabling the motion on the Sixth Malaysia Plan (SMP) at the Dewan Rakyat today.

The Government would like to correct the wrong impression that we must actively promote population increases, he said.

He said the 70 million target was to be achieved by 2100 but at the present rates, it could be reached by 2050. -- 'more

Mahathir-population 2 Kuala Lumpur

As such there is no necessity for people to hurry. In fact the growth rate of 2.4 **per** cent has to be reduced, he said.

During the Fifth Malaysia Plan period the population grew at 2.5 per cent to 18 million last year from 15.8 million people in 1985. -- Bernama

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