

Go slow on population growth

THE current ¹⁰population growth rate of 2.4 per cent has to be reduced, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"At the present rate, we will reach 70 million people by 2050, 50 years before the target date. There is no necessity for people to hurry," the Prime Minister said.

He said the 70 million target was to be achieved in the year 2100.

"With a 2.4 per cent growth, there will be some 450,000 more mouths to feed every year.

"This alone will result in deterioration of living standards unless economic growth outstrips population growth.

He said that it was a matter of satisfaction and pride for Malaysia to be able to improve per capita income and living standards despite population growth.

Malaysia's population was expected to reach 20.3 million by 1995.

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