

Electronics industry product range wider

By K.H. Lim

THE electronics industry is no longer so dependent on the production of semi-conductors now compared with five years ago, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He noted that the industry was now producing more electronic goods and industrial electronics.

He said the Government was glad that the production profile of the industry had changed in line with the Government's policy of

avoiding over-dependence on semi-conductors.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the launch of Philips' centennial celebrations in Petaling Jaya.

He said that in 1986, electronic components made up 81 per cent of the industry's production, with electronic goods having a 12.3 per cent share and industrial electronics 6.2 per cent.

By 1990, he said, the industry's production consisted of 57 per cent electronic components, 23.2 per cent

electronic goods and 19.2 per cent industrial electronics.

In line with this change, the number of projects approved by the Government had also increased, he said.

In 1986, 19 projects for electronic component manufacturing were approved while 11 projects involving the manufacture of electronic goods were given the go-ahead.

Last year, 164 electronic component manufacturing projects were approved fol-

lowed by 30 projects involving electronic goods and 51 projects involving industrial electronics.

The total investment jumped to \$4.5 billion last year.

Dr Mahathir assured investors that the Government was committed to providing infrastructure to ensure industrial growth.

This was evident in the allocations for the transport sector which averaged 18 per cent for the past five-year plans.

Under the Sixth Malaysia Plan, the transport and communications sectors were allocated \$10.8 billion or 19.6 per cent of the total allocations.

For electricity and telecommunications, he said Tenaga Nasional Bhd and Telekom Malaysia Bhd would spend \$20 billion to improve their services.

Besides this, the Government was also providing attractive tax incentives and ensuring a steady supply of skilled labour, he added.