

# PM: GET SET TO FACE PROBLEMS OF 2020

PETALING JAYA, Fri. — Pre-emptive measures should be taken to face the various problems Malaysia might experience by the year 2020, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that as a developed country by then, Malaysia would face many problems if such action was not taken by that time.

The Prime Minister also said that it would be appropriate to strike a balance between upgrading and prevention aspects and treatment and rehabilitation aspects in the long term.

“At the same time, we must be sensitive and efficient in making a forecast of the situation by the year 2020,” he said

when opening the 18th annual general meeting of the Malaysian College of General Practitioners here.

Dr Mahathir said this was necessary to enable the nation to deal with the situation then.

He said the country’s health and medical services in both the private and public sectors would continue to be planned in line with the country’s socio-economic policies.

But the planning would have to be flexible so that it could adapt to the ever-changing situation and problems, he added.

He also said the Government would continue to encourage the development

of primary medical care facilities and that it would enhance specialisation in medicine.

“This is because general practitioners provide care to all groups, including infants, children, teenagers, adults, mothers, the aged, mentally disturbed, handicapped and others,” he said.

Dr Mahathir also said he was proud of efforts to improve the services by the holding of the course for Masters in Family Practice degree.

He hoped that graduands would further upgrade the standard of primary medical care in the urban and rural areas and in private clinics.

Dr Mahathir also said that the various

practices like the family system should be maintained.

“The Government has launched a campaign to encourage healthy living aimed at educating the people to be involved in useful activities and to stay away from activities detrimental to the health,” he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the campaign would reduce the occurrence of health problems such as heart diseases, AIDS, food poisoning and diseases that could be prevented by inoculation.

He also urged Malaysians to uphold values by rejecting drug addiction, the destruction of the marriage institution, alcoholism and the smoking habit.