

PM: Private sector and people very

# All for Vision

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GENTING HIGHLANDS, Sat. --- The encouraging response from the general public and the private sector towards attaining the objectives of Vision 2020 has strengthened the Government's resolve in achieving the set goals, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the nation's quest for "developed nation" status by the year 2020 had brought about much awareness among the general public, to the extent that the topic was now the subject of frequent public discussion.

Dr Mahathir said the private sector had put forward numerous proposals on how to achieve the objectives of the concept, adding that the Government was studying them now.

Speaking at a Press conference after closing a national seminar on *Vision 2020* here, he said the Government had taken note of the proposals and would continue to monitor existing strategies and implement new ones from time to time.

"During my dialogue with the private sector today, they spoke of the need to focus on science and technology in the education system and to upgrade the human resources development in the country.

"We are already implementing some of these suggestions and we will look into the need to implement the others," he said.

The closing of the seminar was attended by senior civil servants, leading businessmen and other prominent personalities.

Among them were former Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and the director-general of the Socio-Economic Research Unit, Dr Mohamed

Yusof bin Ismail, who was also the organising chairman of the seminar.

Dr Mahathir said that in order to have a developed society it was important for the people to practise good values, including being ethical in business and other ventures.

He said the Government would continue to take steps to inculcate positive values appropriate for development in the *rakyat*.

"We want businessmen to be honest and ethical and not merely be profit-oriented or fook for short-term gains," he said, adding that the private sector should also take steps to build up a good crop of ethical businessmen.

The Prime Minister said efforts would be doubled to build a base of the required skilled manpower to face the challenges of a developed nation.

In this context, he called for a conducive working relationship between employers and employees to ensure successful implementation of all development projects.

"It is not good if there are frequent confrontations between them. This is why we promote the in-house union concept, where workers will understand the company's position and not make demands which would jeopardise the company and their own future," he said.

On the recent prison breakout from the Kajang Prison, he said, the Home Ministry was looking into the matter and would take action against prison officers found to have been careless.

On the possibility of Malaysia producing 700cc-1,000cc cars in collaboration with Daihatsu, Dr Mahathir said the Government had received an official proposal from the Japanese car maker on this subject.

He said the proposals were being studied.

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# 2020