

# Mahathir warns against foreign influence

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government must prevent the people from being influenced by information broadcast by-- developed countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night said the Government's responsibility to disseminate true information was consistent with its broadcasting policies.

He said the policies were needed as other developed countries had developed information technology as a powerful tool.

"It is the Government's duty to ensure that the information received from these countries are not biased.

"However, we must develop our technology so that we will not easily succumb to such media,"

he said when interviewed live over radio after the Muzika Perdana concert.

Also present at the concert were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and other senior Government officers.

The concert was held in tribute of the Prime Minister's 10th year anniversary in office.

Dr Mahathir added that

next year, the rakyat should continue to live together in harmony in order to achieve rapid economic progress.

The Prime Minister, who returned from a 10-day visit to Japan and South Korea on Sunday, said the people should realise how fortunate they were to live in Malaysia.

"The people there (in

Japan and South Korea) have to work outdoors even if the temperature is 11 degrees below zero."

When asked to list the nation's achievements this year, Dr Mahathir mentioned political and racial stability and rapid economic development.

Dr Mahathir presented nine Setia awards to staff of the Information Ministry.