

# Balancing development, environ needs

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (left) hopes that the Second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development will address critical issues relating to the impact of development on the environment and the balance that must be achieved between development needs and environmental degradation.

In his message in the programme for the three-day conference, which begins on Monday, the Prime Minister says it is not only timely but also provides a good oppor-

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tunity for participating countries to discuss the various issues relating to the environment and development.

"Developing countries by definition are in the process of development. But development cannot be effected without infringing on the environment.

"How and to what extent development impinges on the environment is of concern to developing countries," he says.

Dr Mahathir says obviously developing countries cannot be expected to give up development altogether

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in order to retain the environment in its pristine condition.

But developing countries cannot disregard environmental degradation either.

"It is imperative, therefore, that we continue to cooperate with one another to ensure that while economic growth and development go on, they do not result in environmental deterioration," he says.

Meanwhile, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding said Dr Mahathir would be briefed on the latest developments in the on-

going senior officials meeting prior to Monday's conference.

He said he would also brief him on the outcome of the New York preparatory committee meeting (Prepcom) for the Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

Law said Malaysia would consider the recommendations of its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, before deciding whether to attend the summit, officially known as United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.