

BALANCED PROGRESS

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressed that Vision 2020 is aimed at achieving a balanced material and spiritual development "without losing our own good values."

The Prime Minister, in a New Year message over RTM last night, said:

"What is intended is the acquisition of the capacity, the knowledge and the skills as well as the living standards which are equal or better than that of the developed countries.

"This will release us from over-dependence on the skills, knowledge and wealth of developed countries.

"For as long as we are without the knowledge and expertise that are currently available, our indepen-

dence will be compromised and we will be forced to submit to foreign powers."

He said to formulate an objective or a vision was easy as anybody could dream up a grand vision.

But between an aspiration or vision and the ability to attain it, there were wide chasms and huge obstacles.

"The question we must ask is whether Malaysia, with its multiracial people, will be able to continuously develop the nation for the next 30 years to achieve developed country status as envisioned," he added.

"The answer can be found in our record during the 34 years of independence."

He said in 1957, the population of Malaya was only

● TURN TO PAGE 2