

A visionary development in line with 2020 goal, says PM

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By G. Danapal

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described the Kuala Lumpur City Centre project as a visionary development that would take Malaysia closer towards its goal of becoming a fully developed nation by the year 2020.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians should feel proud of the project as it would place the Federal capital in an enviable position as a city with the potential to become a major international metropolis.

Dr Mahathir, who launched the project and Petronas headquarters at the site in Jalan Lumba Kuda,

said it reflected the nation's commitment to giving the city an identity of its own with a multi-racial population.

Congratulating the developers, Dr Mahathir said it was one of the biggest real estate projects undertaken by the private sector and reflected the nation's economic prosperity and ability to undertake a project of such magnitude.

He said Malaysia was fast shedding its image as a "producer of raw commodities" with a "value-added and service-oriented economy".

In implementing the project, he said, an important factor to consider was ensuring that the basic infra-

structure was not only in line with the needs of a metropolis but also one which reflected a Malaysian cultural outlook. "This will attract more tourists," he added. He hoped others would emulate the KLCC example.

The KLCC reflects a joint effort of both the private sector and government agencies, Dr Mahathir said.

By using innovative and creative ideas, he said, the private sector can turn an idea into reality.

The Government, on the other hand, would continue to give its support to ensure that the investment climate was always right for the private sector to venture into such projects.

He said it was govern-

ment policy to provide efficient infrastructure as this was vital to ensure the nation's physical development.

"With the co-operation of the Government and the private sector, the nation will be more successful in bringing development for the benefit of the people and the future generations."

Praising Petronas for taking the lead in developing the project, he said the corporation had the experience to undertake high-technology tasks.

He said one of the unique features of the project was the introduction of the "district air-conditioning" concept which used liquefied natural gas.