

PM: Govt on right economic track

By WONG CHUN WAI
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government is on the right track by turning to industrialisation as the backbone of the country's economy. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia's growth rate had been impressive, averaging seven per cent, and that the people had every right to feel proud.

"We have decided we can only succeed through industrialisation. I think you can imagine what will happen to us this year if we had still been dependent on tin and rubber," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the price of tin had fallen and that the rubber industry was not performing any better.

In running a country, it was important to recognise that commodities alone were not sufficient to support Malaysia's growth.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the launching of a book, *Dealing With the Malaysian Civil Service*, published by the civil service, here.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Hamid handed the book to Dr Mahathir at a ceremony in a hotel here.

He said the decision to industrialise Malaysia was a wise one and to avoid problems arising

from prices of commodities being manipulated in overseas market.

"Today, because of industrialisation, we are now better off economically. In fact, we are better off than many countries including industrialised countries," he added.

He urged Malaysians to work hard to achieve the Vision 2020 objective to turn Malaysia into a developed country as it would not happen automatically.

Reiterating his call to the private and public sectors to co-operate, he said the Malaysia Inc programme had worked be-

cause of the close ties.

He said the term was borrowed from Japan Inc but people felt the co-operation between the two sectors was bad.

"But we observe because of this co-operation, Japan was able to progress very rapidly. So without hiding things, we must say that we got the idea of Malaysia Inc from watching the progress and results of Japan Inc," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this was the result of the Look East policy and it was the case of how the public and private sectors had worked together for the success of a country.

Dr Mahathir said the closer the private sector co-operated with the government, the easier it was to cut bureaucratic red-tape.

On the government's decision to issue guidelines on client's charter, he said it was being done for the first time and the people could complain if they were unhappy with services of the civil service.

The 15-page charter is aimed at ensuring an effective and efficient service to the people and to ensure a more disciplined, prepared and responsible public servants.