

PARTNERS IN GROWTH

By LEE KAR YEAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Developed countries must make a serious effort to transfer their high technology here when investing in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said rapid development of a particular country would benefit everyone in an inter-dependent world.

"If a particular country is

progressive, the investing country will benefit for being able to sell more goods to that country," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Government welcomed the establishment of high technology industries which would expose Malaysians to new expertise and technology.

"Malaysia has always considered foreign investors as partners in development because they contribute to the growth of the country although they are profit-oriented," he said at

the closing of Esso's 100 Years in Malaysia celebrations here.

He said when investors were successful and made profits, the Government also benefited from the collection of taxes.

Many foreign companies are also contributing to society through community development programmes.

Dr Mahathir later received a "gift" of RM1 million from Esso chairman Morris E. Foster for the setting up of the Children's Hypermedia Centre at the National Library.

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The Prime Minister said Esso's contribution was in line with the Malaysia Incorporated concept of close government-private sector co-operation.

It was also meaningful to the younger generation because of the importance of knowledge and education in spurring the country towards Vision 2020.

Dr Mahathir suggested that libraries, besides being centres of education, provide more moral education material for children "so that they will become credible citizens."