

PM: 10.4pc growth was unexpected

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SHAH ALAM, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the 10.4 per cent economic growth for the second quarter of this year as unexpected.

"This is because we know our trading partners are experiencing a slowdown.

"But since the demand for our goods keeps on increasing, it has made an impact on our economic growth," Dr Mahathir said here after launching the National Farmers, Fishermen and Breeders 1993 celebration.

"What is more important is that the Consumer Price Index which measures inflation declined to 3.5 per cent," he said.

The CPI for the corre-

sponding period last year was 4.4 per cent, and for the whole of last year, was at 4.7 per cent.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the statement by Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday that the economy recorded a robust 10.4 per cent growth in the second quarter of the year.

Asked if the Government was concerned with the possible overheating of the economy, Dr Mahathir said many people had been saying that when the economy grew, inflation would happen.

"But of late, the Government has given attention to inflation, why it was happening and ways to counter or curb it," he said.