

# Be masters of the economy,

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaysians must chart their own destiny and implement policies and strategies that can place the economy on the right track towards greater achievements, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said that although the country might not influence developments in the international environment, Malaysians must be masters of the economy at home.

Dr Mahathir said this when tabling the mid-term review of the Sixth Malaysia Plan at the Dewan Rakyat

today.

His speech, which lasted one hour and 45 minutes, was televised live over Radio Televisyen Malaysia.

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He said the approach for future economic expansion would be to continue using the private sector as the en-

gine of growth while efforts to curb inflation would be pursued vigorously.

He said public investment would continue although it would be seen more in the provision of infrastructure facilities and services which were needed to support the growth of the economy.

He said attention would also be given to measures aimed at strengthening the balance of payments, human resources development, science and technology, and poverty redressal and restructuring society.

"Over the last few decades, our development ef-

orts have focused on building a strong and firm foundation for the attainment of rapid and sustained economic growth.

"That foundation has now been successfully put in place. We can, therefore, look to the future with greater optimism and confidence, towards attaining our long-term objective of becoming a fully developed and industrialised nation by the year 2020.

"However, I must caution Malaysians from all walks of life that while we can take pride in our achievements, we certainly cannot be complacent with the success we

## Malaysians told

have achieved thus far. We must guard against laxity which will lead to complacency.

"Indeed, we must continue to build on our achievements and manage our success well so as to enable us to bring our nation to greater heights and excellence in the years ahead.

"We should strive towards greater performance and the achievement of economic primacy that can earn Malaysia recognition and a respectable place in the international community of nations.

"To achieve this, Malaysians must be in full posses-

sion of an economy that is competitive, dynamic, robust and resilient."

Dr Mahathir also reminded Malaysians to make adjustments to keep in tandem with the ever changing environment, both from within and without.

To do this, he said, Malaysians must continuously increase productivity and competitiveness and be driven by the pursuit of excellence.

He said the success of all development efforts would have to rely on the participation of all Malaysians and their motivation and commitment.

"I would, therefore, call on Malaysian entrepreneurs to redouble their efforts to identify and seize opportunities from the increasing size of the world market. The opportunities that exist for profitable ventures are plenty.

"I would also urge Malaysian entrepreneurs to set up plants and buy into enterprises overseas for the main purpose of gaining a viable foothold in overseas markets.

"I am indeed confident Malaysian entrepreneurs have the capability and capacity to be successful in these ventures."