

PM: Malaysians can expect encouraging

# Another good year

By Adlin M. Zabri

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysians can expect yet another good year with encouraging economic growth and continued peace in 1994, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that barring any unforeseen circumstances, the country should be able to enjoy a similar, if not better, economic performance next year.

The electronics sector would continue to be the leading sector contributing to the country's exports, Dr Mahathir told reporters at the end of his visit to Angkasapuri.

"At the same time, we are watching a sign of economic revival in the United States of more than three per cent. For a country such as the US where it has a population of 250 million and a very high per capita income, the three per cent growth is a boost to Malaysia's external trade.

"We can expect more exports of electronic products to the US. I also believe that the Japanese economy will also see a recovery but (I'm) not too confident about Europe."

Asked about his expectations in the new year, Dr Mahathir said that generally it would be to continue the efforts to realise the objectives of Vision 2020.

"It is a major step if we want to record an average growth rate of seven per cent a year for the next 30 years.

"At the early stage, we should be able to record a much higher economic growth because 20 to 25 years later it may not be as high as now. Therefore, to ensure that we achieve an annual average growth rate of seven per cent, we must work towards recording a higher growth now."

Asked about his views of 1993 and the achievements of the country, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should consider themselves lucky.

"But we must not forget the tragedies of 1993 such as the collapse of the condominium in Hulu Klang and the floods which have taken away many lives."

He said it was his opinion that while Malaysians could still feel good and able to enjoy life, they must not forget that a tragedy could happen anywhere and anytime.

"We must be cautious and not to be over-zealous to the extent of losing sight of ourselves."

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, visited Angkasapuri this morning where a series of programmes was arranged for them.

Dr Mahathir declared open the new *surau* and the sports complex. Then he was briefed on a new technique of building low-cost houses.

He also witnessed a parade participated by staff of the various departments and agencies under the In-

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formation Ministry. Ministry's secretary-general Yahya Yaacob then led the staff in an oath-reading ceremony.

Later, Dr Mahathir gave away prizes to the winner of the cleanest office contest and the champions of the Ministry's sports carnival and aerobics contest.

The cleanest office was the Planning Department while the sports champion was the Information Ministry.

Filem Negara took the

aerobics prize for the third consecutive year.

At a separate function, Dr Siti Hasmah declared open the "Cumi and Ciki" nursery which is located in the Angkasapuri grounds.

At present, the nursery is taking care of 55 children of all ages. It has been operating since November last year.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah then visited a "Q" exhibition where he launched the new names for RTM's television channels. TV1 will now be called the Prime Channel and TV2 the

Gold Channel.

Later, they attended a concert themed *Untuk Mu* (For You) at the main auditorium at Wisma Radio.

At the end of the hour-long concert, Dr Mahathir was presented with a cake for his belated birthday. He and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat cut a cake to commemorate 30 years of television in Malaysia.

He ended his five-hour visit with the opening of the executive house, followed by lunch.