

# Review Telekom regulations, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for a review of the national telecommunications regulatory framework.

He said the present framework was still far from perfect and efforts had to be carried out to overcome its weaknesses if Malaysia wanted to develop its telecommunications industry.

He said one part which needed to be looked into was the licensing process.

"At present, licences are technology-based rather than service-based, and are issued upon request and submission of approval by individuals or firms.

"In the future, we should approach the licensing issue from

the point of view of service rather than technology," he said when launching the National Telecommunications Policy yesterday.

He said the regulators should also be alert to the latest innovation.

He said the regulators should always be ahead of the private sector in noting technological improvements in the telecommunications industry.

The Prime Minister also urged for the regulators to look into the management of radio frequencies, which had the potential to support a multi-billion ringgit industry.

"We should strive for a more efficient radio spectrum management and regulatory frame-

work," he said.

He also added that the regulator should refrain from reserving too broad a range of radio frequencies spectrum to one or two services.

Dr Mahathir also urged local telecommunication companies to be more aggressive in order to pave their way into new business opportunities and the international market.

He said such companies must have their own vision and establish working co-operation with other companies to ensure that they could succeed.

He said these companies should help the government make the country a telecommunications centre for the region.