

30 NOV 1996

Mahathir-vision

GOOD FOR ASEAN TO THINK AHEAD, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JAKARTA, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it is important for Asean to look into the future to determine its objectives.

"We must have a vision, a target. We must work towards some objectives," he said at a news conference at the end of the Asean inaugural Informal Summit here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to explain the significant of the date 2020 as an Asean Vision which was agreed to by the leaders during the one-day summit.

He said it was good for Asean to work towards what it should be by the year 2020.

"It's quite a good date. As you know, Malaysia has got its Vision 2020, that is because 2020 represents clear vision," he said. Malaysia has set the year 2020 to become a developed country.

"Being a doctor, we can't help but be attracted by 2020 because it means clear vision. So Asean too should have a clear vision," he said.

At the meeting, the seven Asean heads of government exchanged views on the proposed Asean Vision beyond 2003, taking into account that by that time Asean Free Trade Area would have come into being.

They requested the ministers to develop an Asean Vision toward 2020 and submit their report to the next informal summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The second informal summit would be held concurrently with the celebration of the 30th Asean anniversary. -- BERNAMA

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