

# We must not be complacent, Dr M tells G-15

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the Group of 15 (G-15) countries can either realise their potential as the most dynamic among developing nations or let it go to waste.

The grouping could not afford to be complacent in a fast globalising world, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

"We in the South need to set our sights upon new horizons, venture into non-traditional markets and forge multi-faceted links and partnerships among ourselves.

"This meeting in Kuala Lumpur provides a timely opportunity to take stock. We need to redress our inadequacies.

"Let us not allow the challenges that we face cloud our visions for tomorrow as we advance into the coming millennium," he said when opening the G-15 summit here.

Dr Mahathir described himself as a great believer of co-operation for mutual benefit, especially among countries of the South, many of which had been deprived of any real

benefits from their international economic and political relations.

"The G-15 exists for a number of unique reasons. It is one of the few economic groupings of developing countries which is trans-regional in scope."

Malaysia, he said, had been promoting the benefits of a prosperity-neighbour policy and wanted to extend this mindset across regions and continents.

"Besides, in a globalised world, we are all neighbours. We can only increase our trading and other economic relations if we are all prosperous."

On the Information Age, the Prime Minister said developing countries should be given time and support to adjust to a whole series of possibly disruptive change.

He also hoped countries of the South would make use of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor project to cope with the Information Age.