

29 APR 1997

MAHATHIR OPENS NATIONAL CONGRESS ON VISION 2020

PETALING JAYA, April 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened a National Congress on Vision 2020 at Bandar Sunway, near here, the first of its kind since the Prime Minister first announced Malaysia's vision to become a developed country by the year 2020 about six years ago.

Among those present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Cabinet ministers, menteri besar and chief ministers.

The two-day congress is jointly organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI), Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department.

The congress is held under the auspices of the Malaysian Business Council where in its inaugural meeting in 1991 Dr Mahathir announced his Vision 2020.

It would discuss the challenges and strategies for the next 23 years until the year 2020 and identify problem areas associated with the implementation of the vision and find ways to overcome them.

At the opening ceremony attended by about 800 participants, the Prime Minister delivered a keynote address on "Vision 2020: The Way Forward".

It will be followed by nine closed-door sessions of discussion by participants who represented the government, private sector, non-governmental organisations, youth and women's organisations as well as representatives of the ruling and opposition political parties.

Among the prominent speakers are Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee and Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud. -- BERNAMA

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