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PM hopes states will be able to achieve target

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the Government hopes that all states will be able to achieve the target set out under the nation's Vision 2020 although some will expand faster than others.

"Obviously, states like Selangor are developing faster, and also Johor and Penang. Other states are, however, not too far behind. Perhaps one or two states are slow but they can catch up in time.

"By the year 2020, some states will be ahead of the others... perhaps their per capita income will be much more than projected but on average we will achieve the target," he told reporters after chairing a two-hour dialogue session in conjunction with a two-day National Congress on Vision 2020 at Bandar Sunway in Petaling Jaya.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government will take into account views of various organisations such as youth movements as well as of the corporate sector so that measures can be introduced to expedite the realisation of the Vision.

"There are nine workshops at the Congress and all of them have a common goal - to see how Vision 2020 can be most effectively realised," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the participants have provided useful suggestions and recommendations that can be studied by the Government to ensure that the progress towards becoming a developed nation will be smoother.

"Actually, they have come up with a lot of suggestions about how the nation can progress. They admit we have made progress, either spiritually or materially, but some, like the youth, feel that their views are not given due weight by the Government.

"Therefore, we should give more opportunity for them to express their views," he said.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysia is on track in achieving its Vision.

"If you are thinking of economic growth, we feel that we are on course. We have taken note of the changes in our environment, particularly the advent of the Information Age, and accordingly, we have introduced programmes to get the people to understand the changes and to encourage their participation.

"At the same time, we stress on the need for a normal industrial programme. By and large we know the direction... no necessity to change direction now but there is a need to emphasise certain areas," he added.

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