

NANYANG HIGHLIGHTS JAN 23, 1998, FRIDAY  
23 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: The Housing Developers Association has urged the government and Bank Negara to formulate clear guidelines on housing loans to allow qualified housing developers and house buyers to acquire loans from banks. page 1. lead story.

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad unveiled the list of the 24-member National Economic Action Council. A 5-member executive committee comprising of the Prime Minister, his deputy, Tun Daim Zainuddin and two other candidates appointed by Dr Mahathir had also been setup. page 1.

3. KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Mahathir says foreigners are trying to influence people in this region that they have rights and freedom to choose their own government leaders. The Prime Minister also said judging from the current situation foreigners are appeared to be keen to decide leadership for countries in this region rather than letting people in this region to make their own choice. page 2.

4. KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Mahathir says he has no plan to step down as the government led by him will continue to work as a team to resolve the current economic problems. page 2.

5. KUALA LUMPUR: Meanwhile, the Prime Minister says Malaysia does not face any shortage of liquidity. The freeze on loans was imposed last year, and there would not be any loan squeeze this year. Malaysia has adequate liquidity totalling RM490 billion. page 2 -- more

6. KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Mahathir Mohamad says plan to merge all cellular phone companies in the country is welcomed. The government, nevertheless, would not instruct them to do unless they are willing to. page 2.

7. PETALING JAYA: None of Malaysian students in Taiwan were forced to give up their studies amidst the current economic and financial crises. This was made possible due to contingency measures by Taiwan Oversea Chinese Affair Committee to subsidise \$50,000 Taiwan dollar to every student yearly. page 3.

8. KUALA LUMPUR: The Housing Developers Association wants the government to scrape quotas reserved for bumiputras to ease cash flow of developers by allowing them to sell bumiputra units openly in the market. The call was made by its president Chan Kek Tong. page 3.

9. KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 7,849 summonses were issued following the launching of "operasi Statik" by traffic police in major highways to curb road accidents in conjunction with the forthcoming double festive season. Despite that, eleven people died in fatal road accidents on the day when the operation was launched. page 3. A special report.

10. PULAU PINANG: The government is studying laws in Singapore to help Malaysians to withdraw their CPF and re-deposit them in local banks, says deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting. page 7. -- Bernama

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