

UTUSAN MALAYSIA HIGHLIGHTS: FRIDAY, JAN 16  
16 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: The International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus was pleased with the steps taken by Malaysia to address the current economic problems but too early to pass a definitive judgement. He said the IMF would make a definitive judgement on Malaysia only after it has assessed its fiscal and monetary policies taken so far. Page 1. Lead story

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Perodua Kancil, the second national car, was officially launched in Singapore Thursday with an expected export sales of between 300 to 350 units to the republic in the first year, Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd (Perodua) managing director Abdul Rahman Omar said. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Airlines has been conferred the "International Airline of the Year Award" by Airports Company of South Africa. Page 9

4. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia would host the second World Bank Conference on Global Knowledge next year which was initiated by the World Bank in Toronto last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said. Page 2

5. KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara was urged to provide temporary loans to some local banks and finance institutions which are facing a shortage of deposits, Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said. Page 5

6. PULAU PINANG: Hewlett Packard Malaysia, a division of the California-based Hewlett Packard (HP) Company, planned to increase its local supplier to 50 through the setting up of its new-line, the Microwave Technology Division, its managing director Tan Bian Ee said. Page 9

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Local auto parts makers have been advised to look for opportunities abroad in the light of the current economic situation to be export-oriented and take advantage of the lower ringgit. The advice came from Paul Low, president of the Malaysian Automotive Component Parts Manufacturers. Page 9

8. KUALA LUMPUR: The ringgit's appreciation seen in the last few days was a very positive sign and the government hopes it could be stabilised over the long term, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Wong See Wah said. Page 10

9. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has not only maintain a clear fiscal and finance policy, transparent and consistent but proved to be successful in implementing it, several economists said. Page 9

10. KUALA LUMPUR: The Education Ministry and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka were drafting integrated policy to maintain textbook prices despite the increase in the cost of materials and printing, Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said. Page 21

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16/01/98 10-35MST

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