

UTUSAN MALAYSIA HIGHLIGHTS, JAN 13, 1998, TUESDAY
13 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia has been able to tackle problems such as the currency and stock market turmoil fairly well because of its stability. He said the people had worked hard for stability and despite the opposition from a few parties had succeeded it quite well. Lead

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim denied that RM20 billion had been flown out from local banks into foreign financial institutions but said the amount was the saving made in offshore banks until November last year. Page 2

3. KUALA LUMPUR: United States Defence Secretary William Cohen said US would defend its military presence in Asia region to ensure stability, peace and security. Page 2

4. PENDANG, Kedah: The Agriculture Ministry quashed rumours of an increase in the prices of rice and assured that the prices would remain at the present level after it had allowed the padi price to be increased by RM5.39 per 100kg bag, its parliamentary secretary Datuk Abu Bakar Taib said. Page 4

5. KANGAR: Tenaga Nasional Berhad expects a turnover of RM10.8 billion this year following expansion of its services despite soaring operating costs, its executive chairman Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali said. Page 4 --

6. KUALA LUMPUR: The government would fix in stages a ceiling price on 600 local and imported essential items starting with mineral water and food products end of this year to stop profiteering by traders, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said. Page 5

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's total loan growth slowed down to 26.9 percent at the end of November 1997 from 28.4 percent in October, partly due to a moderation in loans extended to the broad property sector, Bank Negara said. Page 9

8. KUALA LUMPUR: The newly appointed Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) executive chairman Mohd Azlan Hashim outlined several positive measures to restore the integrity of KLSE in facing future challenges. Page 9

9. KUALA LUMPUR: Waste Water Engineering (M) Bhd's overseas expansion programme would concentrate more on China as the country was not affected by Asia's currency turmoil affecting most of the Asian countries' economies, its chairman Samsuni Idris said. Page 12

10. KUALA LUMPUR: Amway (Malaysia) Holdings Bhd, a direct-selling company plans to increase the amount of local content of its consumer products due to ringgit depreciation, chairman Tan Sri Azmi Wan Hamzah said. Page 12 -- Bernama

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