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Mahathir-Message

INFRASTRUCTURE KEY TO MALAYSIA BECOMING DEVELOPED NATION, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says that road and transportation facilities will continue to play a pivotal role in Malaysia's drive to be a developed nation by the year 2020.

The prime minister says over the last decade, the road network in the country has expanded significantly as seen by the construction and completion of the multi-billion ringgit North-South expressway and other privatised highways.

He said this in his message in the 21st (XXI) World Road Congress souvenir book.

The week-long congress is scheduled to be opened by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Putra World Trade Centre, here, tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said the congress will provide an opportunity for participants to see for themselves how the network of the road infrastructure and transportation facilities have played a leading role in Malaysia's social and economic progress.

"Besides offering good highways, transportation and telecommunications facilities, Malaysia is an ideal location to host this congress and other similiar events," he said.

"It is my hope that this congress will allow the expert to share and exchange knowledge on various aspects of road technologies and achieve a better understanding of the problem facing both developing and developed countries," Dr Mahathir said.

He said the congress incorporates not only the efforts of the government departments and agencies, but also those of the private sector, organisations and corporations involved in the road industry.

The congress is jointly organised by the World Road Association and the Malaysian government.

Some 2,000 participants from over 90 countries will take part in the congress where experts in road design construction and management will have the opportunity to give their views and assessment on the latest technical development and practices related to road engineering.

This is the saecond time the congress is being held in an Asian country since the congress was founded in 1909. The first Asian country to hold the congress was Japan, in Tokyo, in 1967.

-- BERNAMA

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