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What it takes to achieve Vision 2020

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysia needs to maintain an annual growth rate of seven per cent over the next decade to remain on track towards achieving the Vision 2020 concept.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the infrastructure needed to achieve this was already in place and all that was required was to optimise it.

"It can be achieved, barring no serious national disaster," Dr Mahathir replied to an e-mail interview in TV2 programme, Let's Talk. Dr Mahathir was asked about the 10-year benchmark to measure Malaysia's progress towards achieving Vision 2020.

The target annual growth rate was disclosed recently by Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin in an interview with a Singapore newspaper. Daim was quoted as saying that several development plans for the period of 2001-2010 were being prepared, and that the Government was aiming for a balanced growth rate of between seven and eight per cent.

The seven per cent growth rate target for the next decade provides an indication of the extension (or replacement) of the National Development Policy NDP.

The 10-year Second Outline Perspective Plan, which forms the framework of implementation for the NDP, expires at the end of the year.

The Prime Minister said most of the Government's administrative machinery in Putrajaya and also in Cyberjaya had become the pulse of national development.

"Many Malaysians would already be computer literate by that time and adept in the use of modern communication in business and many related activities," said Dr Mahathir.

Universities will be generating knowledgeable and skilled workers who will further expand the multimedia industry in Malaysia.

"Malaysia should already have been listed as one of the world's 15 leading trading nations with a per capita income of US\$10,000 (RM38,000)."

On the qualities which the younger generation need to enable them to strike forth and "conquer the world", he said youths must have a sense of responsibility and a love for the country.

"They must ensure continuity of the country's success."

Youths must be prepared to work hard after having acquired knowledge and various skills.

"If Malaysia does not want to depend on others, Malaysians must have strength and self-confidence," Dr Mahathir he said.

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