

PM: Entrepreneurs must take note of changing world and find markets

Net 13 APR 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. --- Malaysian entrepreneurs must pay heed to the changing world economic system and take steps to find markets beside the domestic one, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said he hoped entrepreneurs would appreciate this paradigm shift and be aware that the world was the country's market now.

"Entrepreneurs who are capable must maintain a committed attitude, be innovative and implement continuous renewal."

Dr Mahathir said this at the launch of Silverfil, an amalgam with no free mercury used in tooth fillings at the Technology Park Malaysia.

He said the vision to make Malaysia a successful industrialised nation could not be achieved if the people did not possess enough motivation to do it.

Dr Mahathir said the need to have experienced and skilled technical labour in large numbers was critical now given the rapid developments in the country in the era of globalisation and the new millennium.

"As such, it must be impressed upon everyone in the country the importance of showing interest in science and technology and having a culture of creating so that we can all develop Malaysia into a successful industrialised country by 2020," he said.

Dr Mahathir said as Malaysia wanted to progress to a more successful era, all parties must give priority to research and development to raise the standard of local products.

The Government, he said, was aware that the involvement of the private sector and the Government

in research and development efforts was still at a low level.

In this regard, Dr Mahathir said the Government had implemented various efforts under the "Intensification of Research in Priority Areas" set up by the National Council for Scientific Research and Development; streamlined research and development agencies and institutions to delve into wider areas of research; encourage research and development among the private sector, research institutions and universities; and, set up Technology Park Malaysia, the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology as well as the Science and Technology Working Committee under the National Economic Action Council and the Second National Economic Consultative Council.

He said besides various programmes, incentives and financial assistance, the Government had also made available venture capital to set up suitable sites to enhance research and development activities through the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation, a joint venture company between the Government and the private sector to commercialise the products of research and development.

Dr Mahathir hoped that Dr S. Radhakrishnan, the inventor of Silverfil and managing director of Dunia Perwira Sdn Bhd, the product's manufacturer, would continue to produce high technology products.

He also hoped that companies would take advantage of the facilities set up by the Government to develop business and enhance efforts towards industrial development based on technology and research and development.