

Update on the economy

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Two-day conference on 8MP to focus on privatisation and business opportunities

KUALA LUMPUR: A conference on the national vision policy, the Eighth Malaysia Plan (8MP) and privatisation, is expected to provide participants with an update on economic trends, key economic issues and business opportunities.

The two-day conference, beginning next Monday and which will be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will address key issues such as Malaysia's transformation into a knowledge-based economy, new areas of economic growth, competitiveness in a globalising business environment and future prospects.

"The conference is important and timely as it focuses on corporate and economic devel-

opment policies over the next 10 years," Datuk Michael Yeoh, CEO and director of Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) said.

He said there will be a session on privatisation which will deal with projects for privatisation under the 8MP. "During this session, we will also assess a couple of past privatisation programmes," he added.

A panel of economic experts will get together to delve into the 8MP and the country's ability to achieve the targets set under the plan.

"They will explain the benefits of privatisation and participants will be able to obtain further clarification on privatisation issues that they are concerned about," Yeoh said.

Another session comprising a business panel will lead a discussion on generating endogenous-led investments in the country, he said, adding that issues related to the positioning of Malaysian industries for globalisation with the advent of the Asean Free Trade Area and World Trade Organisation will also be addressed.

The conference will end with a ministerial forum on the thrust of the 8MP with emphasis on energy and communications, education and knowledge training and science and environment.

Speakers for this forum are Minister of Energy, Communications and Multimedia Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Minister of Education

Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Law Hieng Ding.

"The conference will disseminate information to the business community and allow them to give their feedback to the government on what each sector feels about the Eighth Malaysia Plan," Yeoh said.

Asli, as the organiser of the conference, will be submitting a report at the end of the conference on issues raised including feedback from the various sectors.

An estimated 300 people are expected to participate.

Speakers will comprise business leaders, economists, foreign investors and senior government officials.