

Malaysia to have third satellite

KAMPALA (Uganda): Malaysia will launch a satellite — its third — to be stationed over Africa to enhance links between the continent and Asia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir **Mohamad** announced here yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the satellite, to be called A-M Sat (Africa-Malaysia Satellite), will be launched by Measat with the cooperation of the Malaysian government 2004.

The satellite, costing about **US\$200mil (RM760mil)**, will be located into the Malaysia orbital slot and would have a footprint covering the whole of Africa and Europe.

Measat has two other satellites covering Asia and the Pacific region right up to Hawaii.

Dr Mahathir said that since the cost was so high African governments and private sector would be invited to invest in the satellite, as it was beneficial for them.

“This will allow them to get direct uninterrupted moving pictures and news from all countries in Africa and Asia. They can also get access all over Asia, Australia and even parts of the US,” he added.