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## Malaysia model of sustainable development

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MALAYSIA at the onset of the third millennium is an exemplar of sustainable and equitable socio-economic development. Its Government is better than that of most other developing countries.

Today our country towers among the community of emergent nations. The secret of this success story lies in the brain power of our present far-sighted, courageous and determined leaders.

They have tapped into all available resources and brought the nation to this peak.

The Federal Government under the dynamic stewardship of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad formulates pragmatic long-term development policies and directions to build a strong and united country.

Peace and security flourish as 22 million Malaysians are determined to strive for the nation, thus transforming it into greatness by 2020.

Diverse fabulous natural endowment especially in terms of vast tracts of land, water and marine resources are stringently looked after.

Hats off to our Government for practising the most frugal system in maintaining its valuable exhaustible resources. Today Malaysia still boasts world-renowned forestry management and revered as the unrivalled pioneer in well-maintained reforestation and forest reserves.

Malaysia has first class planners too, in terms of superb land demarcation and utilisation. The road system is an example for any country, with the ever-increasing mileage of roads and superhighways even in the once remotest countryside.

Power consumption has increased tremendously in recent years as the nation pushes forward its industrialisation programme. Furthermore, the grid line for electricity is expanding every year as the Government pushes ahead its incessant efforts in rural electrification.

Artificial light is no longer a luxury exclusive to the town dwellers. With it comes the increasing computer literacy even among the rural folks. In addition, global telecommunication by merely clicking a mouse provides Malaysia with the winning edge as an ever-expanding global trading nation and the regional hub for tertiary education. Today Malaysians are cyber citizens powered by the inception of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Moreover, Malaysian society lives on the cross-roads of civilisations and traditions. Ours is a cosmopolitan society characteristically modern yet steeped in rich, age-old ways.

The Government is making a concerted effort at continuous human resource development through its training and re-training programmes. Similarly, upgrading agricultural and industrial technology through R&D is meant to ensure the Malaysian economy keeps growing at an impressive rate.

I observe that Malaysian workers are comparable to or better than their counterparts in Asean nations. It is they who move the nation.

To conclude, it is certain that with its rapid development Malaysia is well on the road to becoming a mighty nation in the near future.