Dr M: Younger generation can help realise Vision 2020

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the younger generation must do their bit to help achieve Vision 2020 as it was not going to be easy to achieve the goal.

The Prime Minister said the first eight years of the Vision 2020 effort were "great years" as the country grew 8% per annum.

"But in the 1997 to 1998 came the attack on our currency, its devaluation and the collapse of the stock market. We overcame the assault and again grew at 8% in 2000. But the recession and the Sept 11 attacks (on the United States) undermined our efforts," he said in his keynote address at the launch of Young Professionals Chamber of Malaysia's (Promuda) *Perspective from the Past, Paradigms for the Future* lecture series at Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur here last night.

"We still have 18 years more to go before the target date. Can we do it? Can we make up for the delays, and can we insulate ourselves against future uncertainties?"

He reminded the younger generation to be careful of attempts to create racial disunity.

"We are hopeful (to achieve Vision 2020) but there are some disturbing signs. We are seeing now a resurgence of old distrust and dislikes. There are now people demanding that no effort be made to bring together the people of different races, especially the younger people of the future.

"Despite the government party's effort to reduce racial politics by coalition of race-based and government by consensus, the racist appeal of the opposition has retarded the process towards integration.