

Biotech wonder

SUN - 7 SEP 2002

Made-to-order organs from your local research lab

CYBERJAYA: Imagine having our own organ manufacturing centre. If you have a diseased organ, instead of looking for a donor all you need to do is get a genetically grown one.

Wishful thinking? Not according to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said a company in the Multi-media Super Corridor (MSC) is already looking into this advanced field of biotechnology.

"They are not going to clone human beings. But we are looking at the possibility of produc-

ing organs for transplantation ... things like these are actually very exciting," he said at a news conference at the 6th MSC-International Advisory meeting at Cyberview Lodge, here yesterday.

Without divulging the details, he said the same company has also made advancements into stem cell research.

"It has already found applications of stem cell for the purposes of HIV and Thalassaemia treatment," he added.

Mahathir said this shows that Malaysia was not far

behind advanced countries in the field of biotechnology research and the MSC played an important part in achieving the knowledge-based economy.

"I expect in future there will be more new ideas which will help push Malaysia towards the target of achieving a knowledge-based economy.

Mahathir said the MSC had been able to produce local talents capable of producing 3D animation and new applications of IT for government and small businesses.

"It looks so real that I

thought my seat was moving but actually the picture was," Mahathir said in reference to his visit to the MSC Virtual Reality Centre here yesterday morning.

