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Babies to have identification document from January 2003

#### MyKAD

STARTING Jan 1, all new-born babies will be provided with MyKad, a lifelong identification document and a personal database.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, said this was being done in tandem with the Government's intention to widen the use of information and communications technology.

He said the move would reduce the hassle of filling up forms when dealing with Government agencies and the private sector.

In his Budget speech, he said Malaysia was the first to introduce MyKad, a multi-purpose smart card based on chip technology and bio-metrics with high security features.

MyKad contains information of the holder, including birth certificate as well as information for dealing with Government agencies.

"Several new applications would be incorporated in MyKad.

"A national roll-out will be implemented and all Malaysians will possess Mykad by 2005," he added.

Towards this end, the National Registration Department will be provided with sufficient staff, equipment and mobile units to meet the registration needs in rural areas.

Dr Mahathir said the Government proposes to include additional information, such as marital status and voting constituency.

With this information, he added, the enforcement authority will not mistakenly apprehend people for close proximity and certain parties will not be able to transfer votes.