

21/09/2002

Dr Mahathir prefers to term it `Bajet`

THE 2003 Budget speech by Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad began with him making a light remark of his intention to use the word Budget spelt as "Bajet".

The spelling drew laughter among many in the House.

Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister, said in Bahasa Malaysia, the financial estimates for the following year was referred to as "Belanjawan".

However, he said: "We do not only estimate expenditure but also revenue inflows. The revenue received will determine our level of expenditure. It is not prudent to allocate our expenditure without taking into consideration our revenue sources."

He said word "Belanjawan" may not be appropriate as the word `Budget` in English means a plan of revenue and expenditure for a period.

"As such, I would like to use the word Budget spelt as `Bajet`, as it better reflects the nation's financial estimates which I am tabling today."

He said a prudent Budget takes into account the forecast of revenue inflows that would determine the level of expenditure.