

20 SEP 2002

Mahathir-Generation/BM

2003 BUDGET AIMED AT YOUNGER GENERATION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the 2003 Budget tabled today was targeted more at the younger generation.

"We spend a lot on the younger generation including primary and secondary schoolchildren," he told a press conference after tabling the 2003 Budget at the Dewan Rakyat.

He agreed with the view that the 2003 Budget was an investment for future generations and differed from previous ones which focused on higher education.

The Budget has proposed RM14,294 million for primary and secondary education and RM8,685 million for higher education.

The government is also allocating nearly RM5 billion for implementing the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English between 2002 and 2008.

"We buy computers to enhance teaching, as I said we will use computers to teach and not to teach English alone.

"We have to make preparations, computers are not cheap, they're expensive; we want to use projectors, one projector costs RM13,000," he said.

He said the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English would be implemented in primary and secondary schools.

When asked if the government had made a final decision on the implementation, Dr Mahathir said: "Whether we start in the first year, fourth year, sixth year, that is another matter but we must make preparations."

Dr Mahathir was also asked about a police report lodged against an opposition party for hurling slander on the government.

He said this was probably a result of the people beginning to realise that such actions could be reported to the police.

-- BERNAMA

RZS VRN YBY