

# PM: 4.5% GDP growth target achievable

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad believes the government's target of 4.5% gross domestic products (GDP) growth in 2003 is achievable.

"It (the projected growth) is achievable unless there are some other diseases or wars, which are unpredictable. If everything else being as they are, we should achieve the 4.5%," he said yesterday.

On the second quarter growth, Mahathir said it "should be better than expected" but "not as good" as the government had expected due to the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

"SARS had affected our performance as much as it affected most countries in East Asia," he said.

Mahathir, who is also the finance minister, was speaking after witnessing the RM1.1 billion contract signing ceremony between the federal government and Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd at Putrajaya.

The contract was for several construction activities related to the Gerbang Selatan Bersepadu project in Johor Baru.

The construction involves the building of road and rail bridges and other facilities to replace the existing Causeway linking Johor Baru and Woodlands in Singapore. - theedgedailpcom