

# IMF forecasts 5% growth for Malaysia next year

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast Malaysia's economy to grow more than 5% next year, said its managing director, Horst Kohler.

"The prospects are good for sustaining high growth," he said at a luncheon address organised by the National Press Club and the Malaysian Press Institute.

Speaking to reporters later after a half-hour meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Kohler said: "I say with no hesitation that Malaysia has achieved strong economic performance."

He said he had been struck with awe by what the country had achieved in terms of its infrastructure and the resilience of its econo-

my amid a major slowdown in the major economies over the past three years.

"Much has been achieved under the leadership of Dr Mahathir. I only have deep respect and admiration for the country."

Kohler said IMF will discuss with Malaysia further steps to make the international financial system more stable. - theedgedaily.com