

15/09/2003

Best budget in three decades, says Mustapa

KOTA BARU, Sun. - Budget 2004 tabled by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the best one by any finance minister in three decades, said National Economic Action Council (NEAC) executive director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Mustapa, who is also Kelantan Umno liaison committee chairman, said there had never been so much emphasis given to small- and medium-scale industries.

"The move to place a high significance on SMIs showed the Government's commitment (to the sector)," he said after chairing the State Umno liaison committee meeting yesterday.

Mustapa said previous budgets gave importance to foreign investments but this time, the emphasis was on small businessmen, especially SMIs.

He said the country continued to welcome foreign direct investments but the importance of local investors could not be played down.