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Project continuity

DEVELOPMENT is meant for the country's welfare and progress and should transcend any change in the personalities that drive it. We share Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's confidence that his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will continue the country's development projects. This is as it should be, since national development offers the greatest good to the greatest number. As the country proceeds along the road to a developed nation, obviously there will be many more new projects in the pipeline. These can be big infrastructure projects or just small projects in the rural areas.

Among the country's achievements in economic development is the growth of tourism, which has emerged as an important foreign exchange earner. Langkawi has now become a noted tourist attraction due to the untiring work of Dr Mahathir. But efforts must continue to further develop the island and make it a major international tourist destination. Tioman is another place with good potential to draw in more tourists and there must be improved infrastructure and expanded facilities there.

However, whatever the projects may be, it is equally important that there should be proper follow-up and maintenance. It does not matter whether it is a small or big facility. Over time, there will be less tolerance for waste, less opportunity for trial and error. Poorly executed projects will defeat the purpose intended and become a dead loss to the Government's efforts. There must be no let-up in the emphasis on First-World facilities at first-class and not Third World standards. The maintenance culture must be inculcated if we are to become a truly developed nation.