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# 'Vision 2020 can be achieved'

*PM: Economic growth must be at a minimum of 6pc annually*

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is confident that Vision 2020 — the target for Malaysia to achieve developed nation status — can be realised if economic growth is at a minimum of six per cent annually.

"This year, it is estimated that we can achieve a six per cent growth due

to strong internal and external factors. If this is maintained annually, we can achieve developed nation status by 2020," he said in reply to a question from Senator Muhammad Yusof Husin in the Dewan Negara yesterday.

Yusof had earlier pointed out that former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had expressed doubts on whether Malaysia would achieve the 2020 target due to the global economic crisis.

Dr Mahathir had said that Vision 2020, which was mooted by him in 1991, could only be achieved if the country had an annual growth of seven per cent.

Najib said he understood Dr Mahathir's views as a country's growth was dependent on internal and external factors.

He added that the status of developed nation would be hard to achieve if there was another global

recession.

"If something happens, such as another economic crisis, it will affect our objective in achieving Vision 2020."

Nonetheless, he said, the government was fully committed to attaining the national vision.

Najib gave an assurance that the people of Sabah and Sarawak would enjoy the fruits of developed status in 2020 due to the additional provisions

given by the government to the two states, especially in terms of infrastructure.

"We realise natural conditions and communication problems (in Sabah and Sarawak) are so critical and it cost a lot of money to reach places in remote areas.

"However, the government believes that through its efforts and huge additional allocations, we will be able to ease the situation."