

Digital technology is key

pg. 2

The Star - 7/11/2019

Dr M: It will play a critical role in SDGs despite innovations

KUALA LUMPUR: Digital technology will play a critical role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), although innovation will most likely affect progress in both positive and negative ways, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said the deployment of new technologies was seen essential in achieving the SDGs, considering the need for accelerated progress to fulfil the goals by 2030.

“However, as new technologies are usually unavailable to marginalised populations, it will be a key challenge to ensure no one is left

behind, as new innovations often exacerbate existing divides in society between those who can benefit and those who are left behind,” he said when opening the Malaysia SDG Summit 2019 here yesterday.

The summit, which carries the theme “Accelerating Progress on the SDGs: Whole of Nation Approach”, will contribute ideas and strategies to move the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development forward and energise partnerships through the whole of the nation approach in attaining the SDGs.

Dr Mahathir said a substantial amount of funding was required to achieve the ambitious global SDGs,

which include ending poverty, improving global health, ensuring universal education and mitigating climate change by 2030.

“The expected financial burden is beyond the capacity of the government, and cannot be met by official development assistance.

“The role of the private sector, as well as updated financial markets, will be essential,” he said.

Thus, he said the 2030 Agenda was Malaysia’s collective key to unlocking opportunities in facing those challenges and urged everyone to work together with the government in realising the agenda.

United Nations resident coordi-

nator for Malaysia Stefan Priesner, in his welcoming address, said Malaysia had done a lot of right things in its development path, including a track record in reducing poverty and fostering improved access to public services.

“Malaysia has also been an early starter with regard to the Agenda 2030, building the SDGs into planning, establishing policies and incorporating them into budgetary provisions,” he said. — Bernama

Watch the video
thestartv.com

