

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY and CREATIVITY

Selected Speeches by
DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
Prime Minister of Malaysia

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Volume 1

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TECHNOLOGY
and CREATIVITY

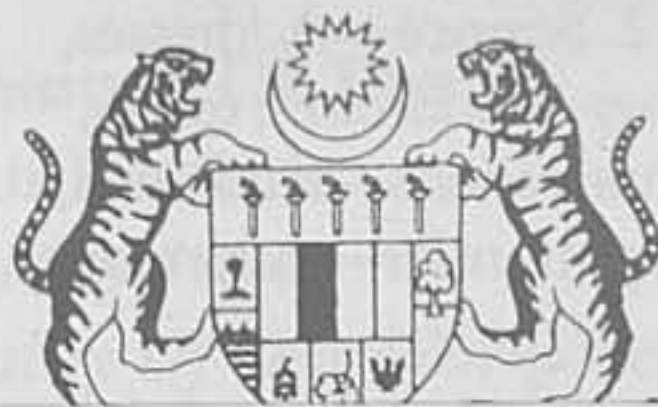


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PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

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A term which we hear often is the Zero-Sum Game, a game in which the winner wins at the expense of the loser. When we add up the result of the contest, there is no real gain from it. It is just a process of transferring what one contestant has to the other, the so-called winner. The net result is no different from the situation of the assets at the start.

If this is to be the basis for trade between nations, then there will be no growth for the world as a whole; only growth for one or the other of the trading partners. Thus, the growth of the poor nations must result in the impoverishment of the rich. In which case, there is every reason for the rich to prevent the poor from ever growing. Similarly the growth of the rich must be at the expense of the poor. Not being in a position to prevent this, the poor will merely get poorer.

We know in fact that this is not the case. Over the years, the economies of all the countries of the world have grown. There are many reasons for this, but I would like to draw attention to the experience of Malaysia where economic growth has not really been at the expense of others. Indeed the opposite is true. Malaysia's prosperity has benefited most of her partners.