We have often been accused of being lavish in undertaking the so-called mega projects. Mega is a relative term. A small project can be mega if the nation cannot afford to finance it. A large project which can be financed from our own sources is not mega.

Ten years ago, all ports in Malaysia handled only one million containers. Today, Port Klang alone handles four million containers while Tanjung Pelepas handled two million containers in its second year of operation.

We are confident that we can achieve our growth target for the tourism industry i.e. one tourist to every Malaysian or 24 million tourists annually.

The Government is confident that the private sector is capable of increasing investments to levels achieved from 1988 to 1997, with an average annual growth of 21%.

We recognise our domestic market is small. However, we can further increase the purchasing power of our population of 24 million.

Total sales of MSC companies are expected to surge to nearly RM45.7bil this year. In addition a total of 18,900 employment opportunities is expected to be created by year end, of which 85% are skilled workers and 88% local workers.

To enable civil servants to carry out their duties effectively, the Government will ensure they remain healthy and productive. Under current regulations, officers in the management and professional category, 40 years and above, are encouraged to undergo medical examinations from time to time. This facility is now extended to all civil servants in the support group.

The purchasing power is expected to be higher with per capita income increasing by 5.5% to RM14,100, compared with RM13,400 this year.

The unemployment rate declined to 3.4% which is still within the level of full employment.

The provision of subsidy will not overcome the problem of low income. The best solution is to engage the people in other jobs during their free time. The government will introduce the One Village One Industry involving the development of small industries which require between 10 and 200 workers.