

# Mahathir: It's better to invest in shares

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DEPUTY Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed advised the people today to invest their savings more in business than in jewellery or land.

"Without doubt, utilising savings to buy land and jewellery is good," he said. "But the benefits from such investments are limited.

"If the money is utilised to buy shares, then business and trade will expand bringing more benefits not only to the investors but also to the public."

## 300 teachers

Dr. Mahathir, who is also the Minister of Education, was speaking at a convention for commercial teachers which he opened at the Malayan Teachers College at Glugor here.

The three-day convention, organised by the Technical and Vocational Division of the Ministry of Education, is being attended by about 300 commercial teachers from all over the country.

Dr. Mahathir said capital used to buy land and jewellery would be frozen, while investment in shares would promote interest in business and create employment opportunities.

He said that only a few bumiputras were involved in modern business activities because their source of earning, especially those in rural areas, was based on subsistence farming.

On the other hand, the non-bumiputras were greatly involved in business because most of them lived in the urban areas.

He said changes were taking place and the rural bumiputras were beginning to be involved in trade and business.

He said the level of bumiputra participation in business was not satisfactory because bumiputras were still new in this field, while the non-bumiputras had lots of experience.

"Many of the bumiputras failed in business because they lacked experience and if this continued it would take longer for the country to achieve the New Economic Policy," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said that

although most bumiputras could not get business experience from childhood through tradition, they could take up commercial subjects in school.

Commercial education could therefore become an instrument to unite the various races in the country.

"Unfortunately up to now commercial subjects were taught more in urban than in rural schools and this could widen the gap of commercial knowledge between the rural and the urban people."

He suggested that the syllabus and teaching technique should be reviewed from time to time.

"Teachers should instil in their students knowledge of the importance of money in the country's development and economy.

"Teachers of commerce should emphasise that profits should be utilised to expand business so that there would be growth in their ventures."