

M-Plan: Need for pooling of experts' services

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has called for the formation of an association of management consultants and on public and private sector consultants to work together to ensure speedy and effective implementation of the Third Malaysia Plan.

He said the association would ensure that the country and the profession benefited fully from the implementation of the Plan and at the same time, it could set and uphold performance

standards and ethics. Government and entrepreneurs who needed consultancy services could have a professional reference point on the consultants' competence and merits, he added.

Dr. Mahathir was addressing a seminar on *Development of In-House Management Consulting Capabilities For The Public Sector* here this morning.

Consultants from nine countries are taking part in the six-day seminar organised by the Asian Centre for Development Administration (ACDA).

Dr. Mahathir said the association would promote greater use of consultancy services to help strengthen managerial capability and productivity of public corporations.

He also spoke of such services being hampered by management consultants, especially foreign ones, who lacked knowledge of Government procedures, institutional arrangements and decision-making processes of developing countries, resulting in their recommendations not being always implementable; high fees; hesitation by managers of Government enterprises to reveal defects to private sector consultants, resulting in the core problem not being dealt with substantively; public sector managers not having access to information to help them in proper selection and utilisation of consultants and managers being often unable to identify real problems and not agreeing with consultants on various phases of assignments.

Dr. Mahathir felt that the time had come for governments in the region to develop their own management consultants to supplement the services of local and foreign consultants in the private sector.

He said there was a need for talented in-house management consultants and a new breed of consultants who would be catalytic and futuristic in their perception and approach to development.

They must have a strong commitment to speed up the development process and upgrade managerial performance at all levels.