

Over — days of the over-zealous officers

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The days of the "over-zealous" Government officials trying to implement policies and laws far beyond their original spirit and intention are over, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Officials of the Ministries of Trade and Industry and of Finance, the departments of Customs, Immigration and other Government agencies, had all been made aware of the spirit behind the

Government's intentions in the New Economic Policy, he said.

"The Government will continue to lay the proper framework within which the officials will operate so as to ensure that there is no variation between Government intention and officials' implementation," he told the Central Region Investment Seminar.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir assured participants that the Industrial Co-ordination Act would not be used as an instrument to create a sense of deprivation wi-

thin any community, either local or foreign.

"What I wish to re-emphasise is that the Government will not allow and cannot allow the ICA to become a deterrent to private sector investment, both local and foreign in the manufacturing sector," he said.

"You have my assurance and the assurance of the Malaysian Government that the ICA will be implemented in such a way as to ensure that it becomes an instrument of orderly and accelerated industrial growth."

Datuk Seri Dr. Maha-

thir also said that the NEP would not be applied in such a way as to become a deterrent to industrial growth.

The NEP with its global targets of 30:40:30 would be applied within the context of expansion and growth, he added.

"Most certainly the NEP is designed to alleviate the economic welfare of the bumiputra community in the country. By the same token, it is not an instrument to depress the economic welfare of others," he said.

"What the Government wishes to see is

that all the communities in Malaysia, including the foreign community, realise their full economic potentials for rapid growth within the free enterprise system that we have created in Malaysia.

"However, we also expect the bumiputra community to experience further accelerated growth in this period.

"In this context, I would like to urge the Malay business community, the Chinese, business community and the Indian business community to take full advantage of the economic op-

portunities that are being made available."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir assured the business community that the healthy business and investment climate that were fostered by the Government before the July 8 national election, would continue to under the present Government.

"In fact, we will continue to take measures to improve Malaysia's investment climate not only for Malaysian businessmen but also for foreign investors."

He also stressed that the Government would

continue its commitment to encourage private sector investments within the free enterprise system. It was totally committed to encouraging foreign investments in the country's industrialisation programme.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the Government was conscious of its commitment to encourage the setting up of resource-based industries, labour-intensive industries and export-oriented industries and the need to encourage higher technology industries in the developed urban centres.