

Drop get rich quick attitude, Malays told

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JITRA, Sat. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad called today on bumiputra entrepreneurs to discard get-rich-quick attitudes as these would only hamper the Government's efforts in achieving the objectives of the New Economic Policy.

Bumiputras would find it hard to succeed in business if they persist in depending solely on government aid, he said. He was speaking at the laying of the foundation stone for the Jitra Umno building today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said bumiputras should never regard a vote for the Government as a guarantee that they would be given a share of the nation's wealth.

"Success in business for the bumiputras depends primarily on self-motivation and a change of attitude whereby they should become self-reliant and less dependent on outside help," he said.

"The Government's objective in giving bumiputras a 30 per cent share in the nation's wealth will surely be jeopardised if there is no business initiative among the community."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said bumiputras must first realise that business acumen is not an innate skill but one that could be acquired by anyone with the right attitude.

Experience

"There have been instances where many, after obtaining permits for stalls, left their businesses to others while they lived off the profits," he said.

"This, I wish to stress, is not the way to run a business. There is no reason for bumiputras to feel ashamed to work with their hands as business has always been honoured in any community," he said.

He said the Government is always willing to train

bumiputras in entrepreneurial skills if they face difficulties in understanding the intricacies in business.

"It is essential for bumiputras to understand that monetary aid from the Government is insufficient for progress," he said.

"Bumiputras will have to enter fields where they have some skill or experience to ensure their success."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it is necessary for the private sector and government agencies to rent or lease building spaces to help bumiputras establish their business premises.

He stressed that bumiputras would have only themselves to blame if they fail in business and do not use opportunities made available by the Government.

Only through business could bumiputras progress in the development of the country and stay on equal standing with non-bumiputras, he said.