

'We'll go Japan- style for the best'

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— By Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Government administrative machinery will be revamped Japanese-style to stimulate greater efficiency and co-operation among civil servants in all categories, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He will be discussing with the Public Services Department the best possible way to implement it.

"We have to find out how we can spread this work ethic as widely and as quickly as possible," he told newsmen on his return from a six-day visit to Japan.

The Prime Minister said the Malaysian administrative machinery is based on an elitist system which can be improved upon.

"Our system follows the West who now themselves agree that the Japanese system is better.

"So if we want to follow, it is better to follow the system that is better."

Specialist

He noted that the Japanese system will be implemented as an on-going process.

"We do not have to follow a hundred per cent... what is not good for us, we can leave out."

He said the private sector should also adopt the Japanese system as it too tends to follow the elitist concept which "is not very good".

Explaining the Japanese system, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said specialist personnel in the country also have all-round experience of the work they are in-

involved in.

The Japanese, he observed, start work from

the lowest category such as at the production line in the factory and from there, move up from one field to another before being promoted to management.

"The managers in Japan know what goes on in the factories and are aware of the problems that may arise.

Attitude

"According to the Western system, managers only learn the job from a distance... but the Japanese know what goes on on the shop floor."

Due to this, he said, the attitude of Japanese managers to workers is different and there is close co-operation among them.

He said "we should learn from Japan not only production technology, but also the way they run their industry".