

Get everybody involved

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Government does not favour racial exclusiveness in business ventures, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"As far as possible, get the participation of all races in business ventures," the Prime Minister told members of the MIC central working committee here today.

He spoke against the setting up of business ventures owned 100 per cent by one race.

He cited an example of a factory in Kelantan wholly owned by bumiputras, adding that he advised

against this when he opened it just before the election.

To avoid creating any bias, such ventures should reflect the multi-racial composition.

Racial exclusiveness, be it in business, education or social activities, would hinder efforts to foster solidarity and national unity.

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The Prime Minister said efforts to establish closer rapport among the races should be actively initiated; he suggested starting multi-racial clubs at State level as one of the ways.

"At the moment there are clubs exclusively for one race or, through no fault of anyone, the membership is

made up of one race," he said.

He called for a deliberate attempt to form multi-racial clubs throughout the country, and government leaders could head such clubs.

"For example, Mentris Besars can head such clubs which have membership made up of every race," he said.

"These clubs can be a venue for the races to exchange views and to understand each other's way of living, thus building a close-knit society," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the Look East policy is not one exclusively for the benefit of bumiputras.

All races would share the benefits as there would be opportunities for all to receive training under this Look East policy.

"The Barisan Nasional Government aspires to be fair and just to all races," he said.

However, no one race would be able to achieve or get what it desires or what it asks for, he added.

On this, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir commended the MIC for allowing "common sense to prevail" and not scramble for more seats in the general election, resulting in its exceptional achievement of 100 per cent success in winning all seats allocated.

He also advised component parties in the Barisan Nasional against allowing emotions over minor issues to prevail as this might break up the coalition.

Whatever problems among component parties must be viewed in the national context and not narrowly, he said.