

'Turnkey projects will benefit bumiputras'

① NST 29 NOV 1982

PENANG, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reiterated that the Government's turnkey and package deal

projects will benefit bumiputras.

The Prime Minister added that it has been laid down in the con-

tracts that there should be at least 30 per cent bumiputra participation in turnkey projects.

"The foreign companies concerned also have to provide training and scholarships for locals to study in Japan and acquire the necessary knowledge," he said at the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry annual dinner here last night.

He also said that by having such turnkey projects, the Government was giving bumiputras a chance to participate and learn from these schemes.

The turnkey project was also introduced to speed up construction schemes by having one contractor undertake the whole job, he said.

Ventures

Under the old contract system, there was no co-ordination among the contractors concerned and projects were delayed and costs escalated as a result, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also urged small businessmen in the transport industry to pool their resources.

"By incorporating their equity, they can achieve economies of scale and be more successful and efficient in their ventures."

He said there were 350 applications to run express buses on the new East-West Highway but only 40 were approved.

The other companies should pool their resources as it would be

more feasible to have one or two large companies, he added.

Earlier, president of the Malayan Chamber of Commerce Dr Nawawi Mat Awin criticised several agencies for deviating from their original objective of giving aid to bumiputras.

The agencies concerned, he said, had instead benefited the non-bumiputras.

He added that the chamber was also sending more trade missions to Asean countries, especially Thailand and Philippines, next year to foster better trade ties.