

Don't blame Govt, Dr. M tells businessmen

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ALOR STAR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regretted that the Government had become the target of criticism from businessmen who failed to get some of the opportunities the Government provided.

He said some businessmen expressed disagreement with the Government when others won the opportunities they were competing for.

The Government will fulfil its promises but those who are unsuccessful in their

business ventures should not blame the Government, he said at the launching of the Kedah Malay Chamber of Commerce's foundation last night.

Various Bumiputera companies and individuals gave \$286,781 to the foundation last night.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it should be realised that businessmen had to be more competitive as their number had increased.

He advised them not to heed the so-called sabotage in business but to instead find ways to improve their performances.

"What is important is hard work, discipline, trustworthiness, sincer-

ity and thrift." The Prime Minister called on successful Bumiputera businessmen to help those still struggling in business.

Attention

The successful should not be arrogant or boastful and forget that they also started with small businesses and had to struggle at the start.

The Government's policy also had to do with their achievements, he added.

The Prime Minister called on Malay chambers of commerce to help Bumiputera small traders in urban and rural areas. "More business activities in rural areas are needed in view of the lack of job opportunities in these places," he said.

In Kedah, he said, the Government was giving attention to small industries in rural areas to help farmers and villagers supplement their incomes.

He cited Taiwan where small industries contributed some US\$300 million.

Demand

He said he was happy bamboo products in the State had received encouraging demand from within and without the country.

In order to meet the demand, collective efforts as well as more factories and larger-scale production are imperative, he added.

He regretted that there were people who still held the old attitude of not wanting to share in business but chose to undertake the ventures on their own.

He said the Government was always willing to provide training and other facilities provided the people wanted to increase their productions and incomes.

"There is nothing easy in this world but if we are willing to work and learn we will be able to compete with others."