

The most important quality to possess...

KUALA LUMPUR,
Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said trustworthiness is the most important quality to be possessed by those who handle large sums of public money.

"If the public has no trust and confidence in the people who handle their money, the concern will never run smoothly and successfully."

The Prime Minister was speaking at a dinner celebrating the 10th anniversary of Talasco Insurance Sdn Bhd here.

The Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (KUB), the investment arm of UMNO, owns 40 per cent of Talasco.

The dinner was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Musa Hitam, Cabinet Ministers, Menteri Besar, MPs and other dignitaries.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said any busi-

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ness involving large sums of public money, particularly banks, insurance companies and discount houses must be run on the principle that the managers must be trustworthy.

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"If something bad happens to such a concern, then it would be hard to win the confidence of the public."

It was also important to have good management.

"Good management is not a natural ability but must be learnt," he said.

On the insurance business, he said that a lot of people had requested that he intervened with the Finance Ministry in order that new licences for insurance companies were granted.

"Insurance is a business that depends on a large clientele to ensure a broad average of risk spreading.

"We do not want to see more companies competing for the same market in the country but instead would like to see the present ones expand more rapidly and become more established," he added.