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We know our job Mahathir

SHAH ALAM, Thurs. — The Government cannot afford to succumb to criticisms against its industrialisation projects as doing so would mean economic retardation, the Prime Minister said today.

Stressing that the Government knew well what it was doing, he said that if it gave in to such criticisms, "we will do nothing at all in Malaysia."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had earlier visited the national car plant, was asked for his views on criticisms against the Government's industrialisation projects.

He told reporters that if the Government had acted on the criticisms, there would be "no industries, no plantations...in fact no independence, as this would be regarded as useless.

"Imagine what Malaysia would be like if we had followed their advice. We will be without industries.

"The critics are telling us not to make tyres as it is premature, not profitable. They tell us not to have foreign investments as we lose money. In fact they tell us not to do anything at all," he said.

Acknowledging that criticisms were to be expected in a democratic society, Dr Mahathir said the Government would not, however, shut itself completely from what the critics had to say.

He said "some very learned people" had, for instance, criticised the Government's import substitute industry, the palm oil, heavy and light industries.

"We listen to them as it is very interesting. I'm quite sure they know what they're talking about...and we feel, we are also sure of what we're talking about. I find that nothing we do is right...there is always somebody saying something..."