

# 'Stand tall' call to Bumiputeras

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KUALALUMPUR, Thurs. — Bumiputeras should try to equal the achievements of other races, especially in the economic sector; the Prime Minister said here today.

He added that the Government wants an appropriate position for Bumiputeras in the country.

"We want them to be equal in all areas, including economic activities," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said at the "topping-up" ceremony of the new \$400 million Umno building in Jalan Tun Ismail here.

The Prime Minister was taken on a tour of the premises by the

building committee chairman, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, and other Umno officials.

He hoped the new building will enable Bumiputeras to "stand tall" among the various races as it will be a symbol of their economic position.

"I am confident that this building will draw Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras into a closer (economic) relationship," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the building is a physical manifestation of Umno's struggle to further the interests of Bumiputeras.

Tracing the history of Bumiputera economic activity in Kuala Lumpur, he said: "I can still remember the first Umno convention at Selangor Club. The Malays, in their traditional clothes, were objects of interest.

"When Umno was formed, there were few Malay shops in town and the Malay population was also limited."

He said the scenario has since changed and "today there are Malays owning buildings and doing business in the city."

Dr Mahathir said the building would become a source of income with profits being used to cover expenditure incurred by party headquarters.

Umno branches, he said, should try to carry out their own projects to gather funds to finance their activities.

"Umno is, however, not a business organisation but a political party and we do not want to be involved in business. But politics is costly and the party needs funds for its activities," he said.

The party, he said, should now try its best to repay debts incurred in the construction of the building.