

Rapped — trade 'envoys' who didn't follow up

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PARIT-BUNTAR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad criticised businessmen today for not following up on contacts they made during trips overseas with him and making it appear as if "we were having a holiday."

"In the past, when I went overseas, a lot of businessmen wanted to join in. But when they returned, there were no follow-ups," the Prime Min-

ister said.

"This has made it appear that we were having a holiday."

He said the Government would ensure that only genuine businessmen were selected to join future delegations.

At least 400 people had expressed their interest to join delegations to look for business opportunities and promote Malaysian products, he added.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the opening of the \$50 million Wembly Activated Clay factory here.

He praised Wembly Activated for being the pioneer company to make good economic use of local resources in the production of bleaching earth, gypsum and sulphuric acid.

He urged businessmen and investors to be bold and innovative in ventur-

ing into new fields to speed up the nation's economic growth.

The present economic activities were concentrated in only a few types of industries, resulting in too many companies competing against each other for business, he said.

"That is the problem with Malaysian businessmen. When someone starts a venture, others will follow.



Dr Mahathir... told businessmen to be bold and innovative.

"And when their businesses fail, they will say that there is a slump."

He said businessmen should carry out a study on ways to exploit our rich natural resources and remember that pioneer industries had better advantage.

"One day, we may produce products of ceramics from clay, glass from sand, large boulders for landscaping," he said.