

Business community

immature. says PM

Act responsibly, and stop playing games

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By A. KATHIRASEN

KULIM, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the Malaysian business community, which he described as "immature in many ways", to grow up and act responsibly.

He said it should stop playing "games and really do business" if it did not want to be left behind.

He said that while the Government was trying to become sophisticated in its administration and policies, the response from the community was not up to requirements at the present stage of development.

"We cannot set up an organisation to do something just to have somebody come along to spoil it," he said.



DR MAHATHIR

He said the Malaysian business community was peculiar in that it was fond of "playing games". It was even childish in some of its actions.

Just as children destroyed the toys they played with, some members of the business community destroyed certain

opened.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was speaking at the opening of the Marconi (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd factory at the Industrial Estate.

Also present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Paduka Haji Osman Aroff, Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Leo Mogie, Deputy Foreign Minister Encik Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar.

Productivity

The Prime Minister said everyone must play his role in ensuring a stable economic climate.

Workers should not only think of getting higher wages all the time but should also work to increase productivity.

They should remember organisations set up for their benefit.

"We gave them the Commodities Exchange and they played with it and in no time destroyed it," he added.

"Now they are playing with the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange."

He said initially these people used the KLSE as a gambling place by selling shares worth one ringgit for about \$25.

"I would like to warn people that this is not business. Trying to play with the KLSE is not business," he said in what he himself described as "stinging remarks."

The Prime Minister said the Government knew what was happening in the KLSE.

He said if Malaysian businessmen did not buck up they were likely to be left behind and they should not blame the Government if this hap-

opportunities available later.

He also said management should always have a close relationship with workers and understand their needs. They should not allow the situation to reach a level where confrontation would result.

Management should not be arrogant.

He said the Government had a duty to ensure that investors were given all the help necessary as this was to the benefit of Malaysians.

The Prime Minister said Marconi's investment here was an expression of confidence in the country's economic and political stability.

He said there were many such factories coming up all over the country demonstrating that Malaysia was politically and economically sound.

He said there was therefore no reason for anyone to have doubts about Malaysia. It is a stable nation with a pragmatic approach towards investment whether foreign or local, added the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir was later toured the factory.

that if their demands were too great, it would drive investors away. Ultimately, it would create more jobless Malaysians.

He said when demanding for higher wages, they should not only think about themselves but also about the future generation including their children. Unless the investment climate was good, investors, both local and foreign, would not set up industries here.

If the investment climate was good then more industries would be set up and their own children would benefit later as there would be more job