

PM: Economic activity will aid recovery

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister today stressed the need for stepping up economic activities in the country in view of the declining primary commodity prices.

"It is more expedient that we ourselves control the economic situation in the country because we can then directly strengthen the economy without having to depend fully on foreign markets," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad added.

He hoped that local business activities, such as the running of restaurants, would help the country's economic growth while awaiting a pick-up in the price of primary commodities.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the opening of the Nelayan Floating Restaurant at Taman

Tasik Titiwangsa here run by Budaya Holdings.

He said people should not be envious of or make wild accusations against efforts of any party to try and develop any industry or business in the country.

"This is because if they succeed, it will mean we will also benefit from the success."

Attitude

He said nobody should question who had benefited from such success as what was more important was that the profits were shared and the enterprise had helped stimulate domestic economic activities.

Dr Mahathir also criticised some people who were concerned with developing only their own businesses and not inter-

ested at all in helping others build their concerns.

He quoted the example of how developed nations which were poor in the past had now succeeded in establishing huge corporations world-wide.

"Their attitude differed from that of certain quarters in the country who are content only to open a small business or industry without making efforts to expand it and assist other businessmen," he added.

The Government, he said, always hoped that every business or industry run by locals would succeed as aspired under the Malaysia Incorporated concept.

Also present at the opening were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Federal Territory Minister Datuk Shahrir Samad and the Datuk Bandar, Datuk Dr Elyas Omar.