

# Dr M on problems in public companies

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Undesirable happenings within public companies are caused by non-compliance with management procedures and systems as well as work methods, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that certain managers and directors of companies acted as if the companies' money was theirs and that they could do as they pleased with it.

"As a result, there are undesirable occurrences which we see now," he added.

The Prime Minister was opening a one-day seminar *Towards improving management capabilities in the country* at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir said the success or failure of a management depend-

ed on the character of those involved — whether they are trustworthy, clean and efficient.

The most noticeable difference between Government and commercial enterprise managements was the "profit motive" aspect, which was the main incentive of business concerns.

The "profit motive" aspect, he said, at times gave rise to unhealthy attitudes.

The Prime Minister stressed that trustworthiness was most important, whether in managing one's own personal affairs or in handling property belonging to others.

Those who were trustworthy would consider managing public property with as much, if not more, responsibility as when managing one's own property.

He said if this were the attitude of those managing public property, the management would be a good one and there would not be any deviation, waste or corrupt practice.

"Within the Government, this will surely ensure a smooth and effective administration which will bring good to the community and nation — the benefit of which we will all enjoy," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that those who had clean thoughts would focus on the benefits of the tasks entrusted to them.

"Without bad thoughts, their thinking will not be disturbed. By having total interest, the work will be carried out well," he said.

The Prime Minister pointed out that physical cleanliness would have a direct bearing on work. A workplace that was dirty was not conducive to producing good results.

On efficiency, he said some people might by nature be efficient in management but for most people this depended on experience or exposure and training.

"If we are prepared to learn and apply what we learn, we can become efficient," he said.

Other factors required for successful management were diligence, discipline and effective communication, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the objective of the Government was to upgrade management.