

# NO MORE DIRECT AID

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By JUNE H.L. WONG

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Government will no longer encourage direct aid to bumiputra entrepreneurs in order to make them more self-reliant, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

He added that the Government — which was now giving the private sector a bigger role in national development — would ensure that bumiputras would be given adequate opportunities to participate in private business and industrial activities.

“They will not be left behind like before the country attained independence,” he said when opening a three-day seminar on *The New Economic Policy After 1990 — The Role of the Public Corporate Sector* organised by the Confederation of Bumiputra Trust and Public Enterprise Agencies (Gemaputera).

Dr Mahathir said the Government had decided that the future role of the trust and public enterprise agencies would be to act as the main channel to create this new “self-reliant bumiputra community.”

These agencies must, therefore, re-orientate themselves to prepare projects that would emphasise individual capability rather than providing direct assistance, he added.

“One way to promote individual capability is to privatise certain agencies and services with potential which bumiputra entrepreneurs can participate in or take over,” Dr Mahathir said.

He added, however, that the privatisation programme would not be hastily implemented without first taking into consideration the readiness of the bumiputras to take over the industries and services.

“We must evaluate not only the individual ability of the bumiputra but also his chances of success in a particular field,” he said.

The Prime Minister also said that an important element in creating dynamic capability was the risk factor involved when one ploughed in his own capital.

“Usually an individual works harder,

is more particular and more creative if he is bearing a personal responsibility.

“This has been proven when an executive from the public sector joins the private sector. He no longer works from 8am to 4pm but uses all his time and energy to make a success of his business,” he added.

He said that in the present adverse economic climate, the Government would continue to give whatever assistance it could to bumiputra businessmen.

“But we hope that once the economy recovers, and there are signs of recovery already, such government aid and assistance will no longer be necessary and bumiputra entrepreneurs will be self-reliant and able to compete with all quarters,” he added.