

# Study your weaknesses

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By OOI INN LEONG

**PENANG, Sun. — Bumiputera entrepreneurs, whether successful or not, should honestly study their weaknesses to find out the reasons for the problems they are facing, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.**

The Prime Minister said the Government was ready to help them but that its efforts, such as financial assistance, were not enough.

This was because Bumiputera businessmen were weak in many areas, including management, while some were untrustworthy or ignored sound business practices, he said.

For these reasons, they were among the first to be hit in a recession, he added.

## A step backward

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Malaysia (MCCIM), Dr Mahathir said the economic recession had resulted in a step backward for Bumiputera businessmen.

The objectives of the New Economic Policy had not been achieved 17 years after its implementation, he said. It was therefore up to Bumiputera entrepreneurs to help themselves.

After almost 31 years of independence, he added, the Government had not succeeded in its aim to bring about equality in the economic standing of the races.

## All parties

Dr Mahathir called on Bumiputera businessmen to spend less time politicking. They should instead concentrate on improving their economic standing.

Problems faced by Bumiputera businessmen could not be blamed on one party, for example, the Government, but should be viewed as a matter to be resolved by all parties, he said.

The Prime Minister added that he was ready to meet the MCCIM committee and to render whatever assistance possible to the chamber.

Also present at the function were Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Acting Chief Minister Datuk Khoo Kay Por and MCCIM president Dr Nawawi Mat Awin.