

PM says it again: Govt will help businessmen

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reaffirmed the Government's pledge to help cash-strapped businessmen overcome their financial problems.

The Prime Minister even offered to sit in and witness meetings between businessmen and bankers in the country in order to help them solve their cashflow problems.

Speaking at the 41st annual dinner of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce of Malaysia (ACCCIM), he said the ACCIM could perhaps submit a memorandum on the cashflow problems of its members.

"I will get Bank Negara and commercial banks to meet you in my presence," he said.

"I will act as referee," he quipped to the amusement of the several hundred leading Chinese entrepreneurs and industrialists attending the dinner.

Earlier, ACCCIM president Tan Sri Wee Boon Ping appealed to the Government to help businessmen who faced problems with their banks.

Dr Mahathir reiterated the Government's policy of civil servants going all out to help the private sector.

"I have told Government servants that it is their duty to help the private sector.

"If they do not do so, let me know and I will talk to them.

"After all, 40 per cent of the profits (of private companies) go to the Government and the money is used to pay their (civil servants') salaries."

The Prime Minister said a careful study of present policies would show that they were designed to help businessmen of all races and not only Bumiputeras.

Dr Mahathir said the fine performance of the economy, which grew 4.7 per cent last year even though the forecast was only two per cent, was due to sound policies of the Government.

"Every encouragement is given to the private sector to perform better ..."

He said the Government had been responsive to the business community and had accommodated its views in the implementation of the Industrial Co-ordination Act (ICA).

Whatever fears expressed over the ICA, they had not stopped domestic investment which continued to grow over the years.