

PM: Govt will continue to boost small industries

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Government will continue to encourage the growth of small industries because they are important to the country's economic development, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said these industries helped ensure the development of a strong industrial structure which could result in a long-term economic growth.

These small industries were also important in helping to create inter-industry linkages, he added.

"The Government will therefore continue to take various measures to encourage the development of small industries. Efforts, however, will have to be made to improve and modernise these industries," he said he opened the new Bank Pemanbangan building here.

Dr Mahathir also expressed the hope that public agencies responsible for these industries, including Bank Pembangunan, would work closely with other research agencies such as Sirim, Mardi, the Rubber Research Institute and the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (Porim).

He said these agencies could help upgrade the manufacturing standards as well as the quality of products of these industries — all of which were important in helping Malaysian businessmen compete in the international market.

By encouraging the development of these industries, the Government would also be attracting Bumiputeras to participate in this sector.

This was because Bumiputeras were more "comfortable" in the running of small industries which were a "meaningful start" to help them face greater challenges.

However, Dr Mahathir noted that the development of small industries was slow and called for a study to be carried out by the public agencies concerned.

He said the primary reason for this slow growth was the negative attitude among small industry entrepreneurs who still relied heavily on Government assistance such as tax exemp-

tion and excessive infrastructure facilities.

"In this regard, these entrepreneurs do not practise good management and are therefore, not able to run their business effectively," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was no other way to success except through hard work and thrift as well as efficient and responsible management.

He said the Government's capacity to help was limited and that every entrepreneur must ensure his own success.

It was better to start a small but efficiently-run business which would grow rather than to owe massive sums of money to expand a business.

The 29-storey Menara Bank Pemanbangan, which cost \$53.1 million, is located on a 0.8 hectre

land at the Jalan Sultan Ismail-Jalan Raja Abdullah intersection.

Also present were Trade and Industry Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Azli, Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Hajah Napsiah Omar, Bank Pemanbangan chairman Tan Sri Abdul Samad Idris and key personnel in the banking and business industry.