

# Privatisation plan will go on, says Dr M

Dr. Mahathir.

By Shah A. Dadameah

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The privatisation programme will be continued regardless of whether there are enough bumiputra entrepreneurs or institutions to take part in it, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We cannot defer the policy just because there are not enough bumiputra businessmen or institutions with funds to take part in the privatisation programme," the Prime Minister told the Dewan Negara.

If the Government found that there were not enough suitable bumiputras, it would do what it

normally did when there were no bumiputra investors to meet its equity plans, he said in reply to Senator Hassan Harun.

"We will allow non-bumiputras or foreigners to hold the equity reserved for bumiputras with the condition that they release the shares to bumiputras who can afford the shares later.

"This will ensure that the bumiputras will continue to have their stake in the privatisation projects," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said that one aim of privatisation was to meet the targets of the New Economic Policy.

"As one of the tools of the NEP, it will ensure that the interests of the bumiputras are safe-

guarded," he added.

Dr Mahathir said there were guidelines for privatisation projects. The guidelines, among other things, stipulated that:

- THIRTY per cent of the paid-up capital of the company taking over a government service or body should be offered to the National Unit Trust (PNB);

- FIFTY-ONE per cent of the company formed with the privatisation of a government service that had been corporatised should be offered to the PNB;

- ONLY bumiputra companies can take over a government trust company when it is privatised; and

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## 19 govt services gone private: PM

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- THIRTY per cent of the equity of government companies (not trust companies) to be sold should be allotted to bumiputras.

In cases where there was no bumiputra entrepreneur with the funds and the expertise to take over a government ser-

vice or company, it would be offered to institutions like Tabung Haji, Armed Forces Fund Board and the PNB, Dr Mahathir said.

He added that 19 government services and businesses had been privatised so far, and these covered such areas as construction, agriculture and communications.