

PM: Top execs will leave after doing jobs

KEMAMAN, Thurs. — Top executives brought in to help ailing government-owned ventures will leave once they have done their job, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the Government did not intend to offer them any permanent posts.

He said the executives were experts in their fields, and were brought in to introduce modern and effective management to turn ailing ventures around.

He said the ventures requiring such expertise included the Perwaja steel mill, which had been running at a loss, and the national car project.

"The Government expects the others in the companies concerned to learn from them so that the borrowed executives could return to their old jobs in and outside the country," Dr Mahathir said when opening Wisma Waja belonging to Perwaja Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir said the executives in Perwaja and

those involved in the national car project in particular should make good use of the chance to acquire know-how.

He said that executives should not think they did not have to learn anymore just because they held degrees.

He said they should not just sit in air-conditioned rooms because they had a lot to learn from practical experience.

By bringing in expertise from outside, the Government had succeeded in

making several ventures profitable.

Dr Mahathir said the move to get expert help from more advanced countries might be criticised, but it was in the best interest of the nation.

He said a \$32 million profit was recorded for the national car project after Malaysia got the help of foreign experts.

He criticised those who had said that Malaysia should not go into heavy industries because it lacked the expertise and skilled labour.