

Welfare of the majority first, says PM

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By Nor Hwa Yunus

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. —

The Government always gives priority to the prosperity of the majority when formulating its development policies. **Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

The Prime Minister said the Government could ill-afford to give one minority group special attention and sacrifice the interest and prosperity of the majority.

Opening the one-day **Investment Opportunities in Johore** seminar here, Dr Mahathir said the country had felt the effects of the recession, noting that many people, including graduates were left unemployed.

To overcome recession, he said, the Government was faced with two choices — either to give priority to a small group of local investors to start their own industries when they become capable, or to concentrate on creating employment opportunities by attracting foreign investors.

He said the Government chose the latter adding that local investors would have the opportunity later when the economy expanded and they once again have the capital.

“If there is no domestic investment, and foreign investment is obstructed, our workers will not be able to secure jobs and the unemployed will remain unemployed. The economy would not be able to recover quickly and workers’ woes will persist and grow from year to year.”

Dr Mahathir said **Malaysia** could face problems of uncontrollable inflation and low currency value like in parts of Asia, Africa and South America, if the economy failed to recover quickly.

Dr Mahathir said if the Government could not provide a good life for its people, they would be forced to migrate to developed countries to become labourers.