

Dr M: It's proven 'sell-off' benefits all

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FOUR ex-government entities — Klang Container Terminal, Malasia Airlines, Malaysian International Shipping Corp and Syarikat Telekom Malaysia — are proof that the privatization policy benefits all.

In his address to the 55th anniversary of the Malaysian civil services in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Prime Minister & **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said since their privatization, the four companies have performed better to benefit not only the Government but also workers, the public and the private sector.

Some of their achievements are:

- Higher wages for workers in the four companies;-

- = Better services to the **public**;

- Higher company **profits**, as reflected in taxes paid by the four to the Government; and

- More income for the Government, enabling it to pass it on in the form of higher salaries to employees in the public sector.

Despite the benefits, the positive impact of privatization on the economy has yet to be fully understood by the people.

The Prime Minister said public administrators, being the Government's main implementing machinery, should therefore step up efforts to ensure that the policy is fully understood and that its implementation runs smoothly.

He said the shift towards privatization is not exclusive to Malaysia. Even the communist bloc countries, led by the USSR and its **perestroika** reformative programme, realise that government monopoly of major services and economic activities does not help their wealth distribution efforts.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir noted that public **preception** of Malaysia Inc is equally vague. Feedback from the private sector shows that cooperation between the private sector

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Benefits of 'sell-off'

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and the government agencies has not reached the desired stage.

Earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said government efforts to improve the country's competitive edge will not succeed if private sector management and public sector administration are not consistently effective.

The Government, he added, is also not too worried about wage levels continuing to increase in both sectors, provided that they are always accompanied by increases in productivity levels.

In fact, he said, it is the Govern-

ment's wish to see workers earning more than they did before. More income means more purchasing power for the people and subsequently more business. More business, in turn, will boost economic growth, he added.

Some 300 public administrators, senior government officials and observers, including Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Yusof Noor and secretary-general to the Government Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, attended the anniversary do.