

Dr M. Grants NST 27 JUL 1990 alone can't help

★ FROM PAGE ONE

"recognise, admit and overcome your weaknesses" in order to be successful.

Dr Mahathir said although there were no special programmes for women entrepreneurs, it did not mean that the Government did not care for them.

He drew applause when he said that women entrepreneurs had two women Ministers on whom they could depend.

Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Paduka Napsiah Omar were among those present.

Dr Mahathir expressed the hope that the symposium would identify real problems faced by women entrepreneurs and also deal with their weaknesses so that they would be able to succeed.

He said the Government had implemented various programmes for Bumiputeras to enable them to play a role in the economy.

The New Economic Policy, he added, was implemented to help Bumiputeras gain a place in the economy of the nation. Other programmes included setting up banks and agencies to benefit Bumiputeras.

But allocations and pro-

grammes cannot by themselves help Bumiputeras, he said. They must on their part be committed towards ensuring that their share did not slip from them.

One example, he said, was the sale to others of shares and licences given to Bumiputeras.

He said because some Bumiputeras wanted to make quick returns, they had allowed the situation where their share in the economy had been reduced.

Dr Mahathir added that this had also been an obstacle to efforts to achieve the NEP's 30 per cent target.

The Prime Minister was later entertained to a satirical sketch depicting the problems faced by women in business.

Several working papers are being presented at the symposium, including those by delegates from Indonesia, Canada, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines.

President of the Holland-based Women's World Banking Michaela Walsh will present a paper tomorrow. The symposium is being organised by Penagawati or the Association of Bumiputera Business and Professional Women in Selangor and the Federal Territory and sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Think small, not big, NST 27 JUL 1990 PM tells Bumi traders

By Nuraina Samad

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Bumiputera businessmen should reorientate their business philosophy by thinking small instead of big, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said this was because thinking big did not necessarily mean making big profits. It also meant that one's losses could also be big.

Dr Mahathir said it was probably a mistake on the part of the Government in the past to have urged businessmen to "think big".

"When we did that, many people thought that thinking big meant reaping huge profits. They forgot that thinking big also meant big

losses," he said when opening the three-day National Symposium of Malaysian Women Entrepreneurs at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir said businessmen must "think small" first and take progressive steps to expand as businessmen in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan did.

He said Bumiputeras who wanted to succeed in business must be prepared to admit their weaknesses so that they could overcome them.

Dr Mahathir said as long as they did not recognise their weaknesses, they would never be able to correct the situation.

One obvious weakness among Bumiputera businessmen and women, he ad-

ded, was their lack of business management. They must overcome this if they wanted to succeed.

Dr Mahathir said for this reason, the Government provided various management training programmes to upgrade their skills and efficiency.

He said Bumiputeras should not blame others for "our weakness because they would not rectify the situation for us".

He said the Government could provide every facility available to help businessmen, but if they were bad managers they would not succeed.

"Although many people say anybody can be a businessman, one must be an efficient manager to succeed."

The Prime Minister said it was also important to be honest managers to ensure that a business was run well.

He said there had been occasions when companies got into trouble because of dishonest managers.

Dr Mahathir gave an assurance to women entrepreneurs that the Government would give attention to the problems they faced.

He said women had always played an important role in the nation's economy and for this reason the Government was prepared to look into the demands by women entrepreneurs.

But, he reminded them to

★ PLEASE TURN TO
PAGE 2, COL 8.