

Dr M clarifies role of Business Council

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By Noorzita Samad

THE newly-formed Malaysian Business Council (MBC) will function as an advisory body, and not to formulate new policies, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the MBC is unlike the earlier National Economic Consultative Council as its members are free to speak to anybody, including the Press.

"As I am chairing the MBC, I will ensure it runs smoothly," Dr Mahathir said at a Press conference af-

ter he had chaired MBC's inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

He said that all members are required to be present for the meetings which will be held three times a year.

He added that some feel that it should meet more frequently.

Dr Mahathir said although members of the council are largely made of senior government officers, Ministers as well as business people, we also have at least one trade unionist.

"The present number," he said, "might not enough and we may aug-

ment this number as we feel more should participate in the development of Malaysia."

He said: "We want to listen to the views of the members; but we are not required to pass resolutions, to vote or to achieve consensus on the views that are expressed.

"All that is required is a record the views expressed. Then we will assess these views. Those which we think we can accept or implement or incorporate into the Government's policy, we will do so," he said.