

Traders told

to give
written

assurance

ALOR STAR, Thurs. — Funds will only be given to improve Pekan Rabu if the traders can give a written assurance that they will abide by regulations to be outlined by the Government for the market, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the Government needed assurance from the traders before carrying out work to improve the market along the lines of popular shopping malls or supermarkets.

He said the Government was not willing to spend the money if the traders refused to change their attitude and business methods.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after a 45-minute meeting with the committee members of Koperasi Pekan Rabu on his arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas.

He said he met the committee today because he had promised to improve and beautify the market and turn it into a shopping mall or supermarket.

He said there was no point of improving the market if the traders continued to ignore advice by making extensions to their shops and failing to ensure cleanliness.

"There is no point having a beautiful building but traders continue with their old habits."

Dr Mahathir said the Koperasi Pekan Rabu president must hold a meeting with all the traders concerned and get their written assurance.

"The Government will wait for that written assurance and we are not giving them any deadline."

He said the Government had plans to expand Pekan Rabu and install a new lighting system to enable the market to operate at night.

Dr Mahathir reminded the traders that the business strategies now have changed and they should not maintain the outdated method if they wanted their business to improve.

He said Pekan Rabu had not been fully utilised by the traders to reap as much profits as possible.

"If we were to give the market to a private firm, they will turn it into a money spinner."