

Don't depend on aid, bumis told

By WONG CHUN WAI

BANGI: Bumiputra building contractors must discard their sole dependence on Government projects, Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said.

He told them they must learn to compete on their own with determination and not to continue depending on Government help and privileges which he likened to crutches.

The number of bumiputra contractors who were able to compete in the pri-

vate sector was limited, Dr Mahathir said at the opening of a two-week course for bumiputra building contractors at the Public Works Institute here yesterday.

He expressed disappointment that after 35 years of independence, bumiputra contractors had yet to show their capability.

He said they were still unwilling to compete in the private sector; adding that they should feel shameful for being so dependent.

Dr Mahathir said there was no reason for bumiputra contractors not to be successful if they were serious in their work.

"You cannot be considered successful even if you are awarded a \$100 billion project by the Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged the contractors to identify their weaknesses and to correct them instead of blaming others for their shortcomings.

There were bumiputra contractors who let others carry out their pro-

jects after they had been given the tenders, he said.

He said such contractors would not gain any knowledge because they did not involve themselves fully in the trade.

The Prime Minister described a contractor with negative attitudes as a physically handicapped person who had to depend on crutches.

"The Government will not forever provide these crutches because they do not seem to be helping them to progress but only to regress," he said.