

Correct your own Weaknesses, PM advises Bumis

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By Ravi Nambiar

JOHOR BARU, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Bumiputera businessmen to look deeply at their own weaknesses and find ways to rectify them.

He said they should change their attitudes because there was no shortcut to success in business.

He stressed the need for self-evaluation, adding that many failures could be traced to their "get-rich-fast" mentality.

"You have to be open and frank about your weaknesses. Don't be afraid to admit your faults instead of blaming the Government and others," he said at the annual dinner of the Johor Malay Chamber of Commerce here tonight.

Dr Mahathir said the chamber should also adopt new strategies to spur Malay businessmen to greater success and prosperity.

He added it should also review its functions instead of being a "postman" to convey petitions and seek aid

from the Government for flagging Bumiputera traders.

While the Government would continue to help the community, he said they should also be self-reliant and be prepared to compete against others.

He said this was not impossible because the success of many leading Malay corporate personalities showed that Bumiputeras have the skills and ability to make it good in business.

"Our success in privatisa-

tion is an example of our ability to do something new and do it well," he said.

He urged Malay businessmen to identify their flaws and shortcomings, adding that government agencies and special aid programmes alone would not guarantee success.

"Don't rely too much on the Government. Ultimately, what really counts is hard work, perseverance and the willingness to learn from mistakes," he said.