

PM: Improve services to lure investors

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants bureaucrats at all levels to continuously improve their services and efficiency to encourage domestic and foreign investments.

Bureaucratic efficiency, besides a political climate conducive to the success of a free enterprise system, seems to be the decisive factor to draw investors to the country, he said.

"The politicians will look after the political climate. But bureaucrats at all levels must continuously improve their service and efficiency," he said at the Mida 25th anniversary dinner celebration here last night.

The Prime Minister said he wants red tape to be cut and conditions for investments to be minimised and be clearly spelt out.

"Once this is done, discretion on the part of bureaucrats should be minimised if not done away altogether.

"As long as proposals fulfil the required conditions, approval should be given automatically and quickly," he said.

To reduce workload and time con-

suming descriptive essays, Dr Mahathir said simple forms should be used.

Dr Mahathir suggested the extensive use of computers and computers software that can provide all the relevant data be designed to ensure efficiency.

Dr Mahathir said there is a need for investment strategies to propel the country towards the objective of achieving a fully developed nation status by 2020.

Mida, he said, must continue to guide the manufacturing sector towards achieving this long term vision of growth.

The challenges facing the country today are more complex and with the switch of most centrally planned economies in favour of the free market and private enterprise, new competitors have emerged.

"Some of these competitors can offer skilled and cheaper labour.

"Unless we devise new strategies we are no longer going to be attractive to investors," he said.