

Dr M RAPS DIM STATE LEADERS

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(P)

MALACCA: The Prime Minister is not happy with the performance of some state leaderships whose actions obstruct and hinder investors.

He said these leaders should change their attitude if they wanted to develop their states.

All the state governments, he added, were expected to have dynamic leaderships, particularly in attracting foreign investment and dealing with investors.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who declined to name the state governments, said there was a wrong notion among some quarters that investors ought to be milked dry to get maximum benefits.

"There have been cases where investors were forced to give out contracts to some people, forced to employ only local workers, forced to refer to the Government before any decision is made or fined for not meeting difficult conditions set.

"Because of this, other investors do not go to the states," he said after opening the *Malacca in World Heritage Convention* at the Air Keroh d'Village hotel yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said if state govern-

ments actively wooed investors and treated them well, more foreign companies would set up industries.

Earlier, when opening the Air Keroh d'Village Hotel, Dr Mahathir regretted there had been riots in a state when local workers were not taken in for an industry.

(Last Saturday, some 60 people went on a rampage at South Korea's Hyundai Engineering & Construction Company office in Kertih, Terengganu, setting fire to some offices and workers' cabins after the company had rejected their job applications).

Dr Mahathir said state government leaders should continually ask themselves what needed to be done.

"Unfortunately some leaders do not want to make this effort," he said.

Dr Mahathir said if the leadership was "dim" it would reflect on the state's progress and development.

He also said Malay businessmen should maintain their credibility and reputation by repaying loans.

Dr Mahathir said it was shameful for him to say that there were still such people around. "But I have to state the facts."

He said in the case of Mara loans,

some borrowers refused to pay, on the grounds that they were government funds.

"They give the excuse that the Government belongs to the people, so they need not repay.

"Such attitude gives the impression that all Malays do not repay debts."