

# Special body to monitor new work ethics

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a special department under the Prime Minister's Department would monitor the new work ethics governing the political wing in Government.

The Prime Minister said that this was to ensure that the regulations were strictly adhered to by all parties concerned.

The work ethics would have clear guidelines on what the affected personalities could and could not do, Dr Mahathir said when announcing his new Cabinet line-up at a Press conference today.

Dr Mahathir said he had personally studied the draft of the ethics, which he subsequently approved.

Dr Mahathir was asked if the new members of the Cabinet would be required to declare their assets before embarking on their respective duties.

"We want to regularise what we are doing now (pertaining to the declaration of assets by Cabinet members) as we did not have guidelines (before).

"Now we have guidelines for Ministers so that they understand what their responsibilities are ... what is allowed and what is not allowed, how they should work and so on ..."

Asked whether action would be taken against those who breached the ethics, Dr Mahathir said there were ways of dealing with those who failed to adhere to them.

The Prime Minister was also asked whether the greater emphasis on economic matters would lead to a realignment of the Ministry of Trade and Industry's role, and whether the appreciation of the yen would mean a reduced emphasis on "Looking East".

Dr Mahathir said: "We can expect more investments from Japan with the rise in the value of the yen. As far as work ethic in management know how is concerned, I don't think we need to turn away from the East."

He said that the current sharp appreciation of the yen "is a moving target" and "a new strategy of the West", adding that this was something Malaysia would have to watch.

He said: "The West is not going to allow the Japanese to have breathing space at all. If they allow that, the Japanese will be able to work out some way of overcoming the increase in the value of the yen."

"What they (the West) are doing now is that before the Japanese can settle down to tackle the problem, they push the yen higher. And just as the Japanese try to tackle the problem again, the yen gets even higher."

"That way, the Japanese are kept running merely to stand still. This is a new phenomenon and a new strategy of the West, which we will have to watch. We also need to know its impact on us."

"We have already stopped borrowing yen but our old yen debt has certainly increased. In certain

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 2, COL 6

## Dr Mahathir: We have to study trade changes

FROM PAGE ONE

cases, the loan increased by three times of what we borrowed. Previously, one yen was equivalent to one Malaysian sen. Now one yen is equivalent to almost three Malaysian sen."

The Prime Minister said Malaysia also needed to be alert to changes taking place in the world economic scene so that it could respond accordingly. This would help protect the country's economic interest, he added.

Dr Mahathir said: "We act accordingly to situations which are beyond our control. If the pattern of trade changes, we have to study it. If the exchange rate changes, we have to study what impact it has on our economy and make the necessary adjustment."