

Malaysia Incorporated policy fairly successful, says Dr M

By
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THE Malaysia Incorporated policy has been fairly successful but it will be more so if there is a greater willingness on the part of both civil servants and the private sector to be frank and friendly with each other.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there is no doubt that without the policy, Malaysia would be much less attractive and competitive than it is today.

He said this when asked in an interview on how successful the policy had been in raising the competitiveness of Malaysian services and products globally.

The interview is contained in the *Malaysia Incorporated* book, which he launched at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the performance of Government departments and agencies in working with the private sector, he said, "I am quite satisfied, given the relative newness of the idea of Government departments and agencies working closely with the private sector.

"With time and greater appreciation of the need for

close co-operation, the results will be better."

On the performance of the private sector, Dr Mahathir said it is quite satisfactory but added that a more systematic approach in seeking administrative co-operation should be developed by the private sector.

It should learn about Government processes, procedures and workflows so as to better interact with the appropriate departments and officials.

"All these procedures have been simplified and documented and are available to the private sector. Administrative processes are more transparent today than ever before.

"All agencies and departments will have a unit to oversee and ensure that the privatised functions do not abuse their monopolies, if any. In any case, there are sufficient Government regulations and laws and enforcement agencies to oversee the behaviour of the privatised agencies."

Asked how big a role foreign investors would have in helping make Malaysia fully developed, he said they would continue to be vital for at least the next 10 to 15 years.

However, he said their role would diminish in inverse proportion to that of domestic investors.

"Over a period, domestic

entrepreneurs will master the industries which will contribute to the country's growth. They will have the capital, know-how and the marketing network. They will also grow very big."

He said beyond 2010, domestic investor-entrepreneurs would dominate and they would be able to compete with foreign investors at home and abroad with home grown technology, access to capital and trading networks worldwide.

On how much of the Government's commitment to safeguard the environment has seeped to the private sector, he said some in the private sector are quite concerned about the environment although some others are less so.

"The constant hammering by the Government has had its effect. However, the private sector will always want to balance the cost and the benefits. It is unrealistic to expect the private sector to go into a business in the interest of the environment exclusively.

"People should care for the environment because it is good. If they care only if they get incentives, then society will have failed. The private sector, as good citizens of the nation, must care for the environment irrespective of incentives, at least to a reasonable degree."