

24/04/1997

#### Move to adopt Japanese laundrette franchise

Marhalim Abas

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Entrepreneur Development Ministry has identified Japan's laundrette franchise system as the concept for a similar venture for Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

Towards this end, the Ministry has selected a potential entrepreneur to be sent to Japan to study the system.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said on returning, the entrepreneur would set up a laundrette franchise based on the system used in Japan.

"The entrepreneur will implement the system he had learnt in Japan for the benefit of the franchisees," he told reporters after chairing his Ministry's post-Cabinet meeting today.

Mustapa said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself had suggested that the laundrette business be offered for franchising as it had the potential to grow.

He said Japan's laundrette business was selected as a model as it had a good franchise system.

"Although the laundrette business is very competitive, we hope the system and methods adopted from Japan will give local franchisees an opportunity to offer better services and even hold their own."

Mustapa said the Ministry had also held talks with laundrette operators in this country for the possibility of franchising their operations to Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

Mustapa said four commercial banks had agreed in principle to finance the franchise activities of Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

He said he would be meeting with the banks' representatives and the Credit Guarantee Corporation Berhad soon to finalise details.

In another development, Mustapa said disciplinary action had been taken against several Commercial Vehicle Licensing Board staff for abetting middlemen in securing the board's services illegally.

The disciplinary action was taken internally without intervention of others.

Mustapa said they had also instituted several guidelines to prevent future occurrences.

(END)