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## Agencies urged to make profits

LANGKAWI, Sat. - Statutory bodies involved in business must strive to generate their own profits and not depend on allocations from the Government, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said while the Government could give allocations for non-profit making agencies, others involved in business must operate like the private sector.

Citing agencies involved in development of estates as an example where the Government had to fork out yearly allocations, he said those in the private sector were making profits and re-investing them.

"We do not expect agencies to generate excessive profits but they should avoid depending on handouts from the Government every year," he told heads and senior officers of statutory bodies at a dinner.

Urging them to understand the rationale for the setting up of government agencies, Dr Mahathir said although the Government had privatised many of its functions, there was still a need to retain some statutory bodies for specific roles like research.

He said it was important that they acquire management skills, not only for the efficient running of their agencies but also for their benefit when they retired.

Some who retired and set up businesses lost all their gratuity payments because they did not acquire management skills when they had the opportunity to do so while in Government.

He later presented awards to agencies which produced the best annual reports. The Malaysian Tourism Promotions Board emerged first, followed by the EPF and Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

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