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Read 'The Malay Dilemma' Dr M tells businessmen

BUMIPUTERA entrepreneurs stand to gain if they read The Malay Dilemma, its author Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"If you can, go back and read it again. I feel we can gain from reading the book," he told some 1,300 participants of the 4th Bumiputera Economic Congress at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir made the suggestion when elaborating on weaknesses in the business culture of Malay entrepreneurs.

He said he had delved on the subject many years ago.

Dr Mahathir expressed hope that those reading the book, which among others touched on the weaknesses of Malay entrepreneurs and their business culture, would not be offended by what he had written.

"Bumiputera businesses can succeed if the correct business culture is inculcated in them."

In a lighter vein, the Prime Minister said: "If you wish to buy (the book), then buy. It is not that I want royalty as I'm already getting the royalty."

Dr Mahathir said he had also written a guide book for petty traders which was published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

"I wrote the book but probably not many read it," he said, adding that the book was based on his experience in his younger days as a petty trader at the Pekan Rabu market in Alor Star.

"Although I just sold bananas, it was profitable. I was more prosperous than my older brothers who were employed by the Government.

"That's why I believe business can bring good profit. But the culture must be there," he said.

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