

# Mara must do more to improve bumi lot

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PM: Achievements are small compared with efforts and allocations

**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not satisfied with the results achieved by Mara to improve the lot of bumiputras.

He said a study will be conducted to find out the reasons for the poor results.

"I'm never satisfied with anything. Mara has done good work, with that I am satisfied. But the results are less satisfactory compared with the amount of work and money that have been put in," he said after launching Rida-Mara's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

At the launch, Mahathir said although nobody can deny that Mara has contributed much to the betterment of bumiputras in the economy, the achievements are small compared to the effort and allocations made.

"In all economic areas, bumiputras are still lagging behind, although there is Mara and other agencies and funds," he said.

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Mahathir said he realises that he would be criticised for exposing the faults of the Malays and the bumiputras.

"But I would rather that I be condemned than watch our own people be backward," he said.

Mahathir said projects for bumiputra betterment will not be successful unless they take advantage of the opportunities given.

"By selling subsidised fertiliser and using EPF money to buy a computer, then using it for wasteful purposes will thwart the government's efforts to balance the economic situations of the different races," he said.

He also said bumiputras can no longer blame the colonialists or others if they still fail to change their fate.

He said that the bumiputras must strive further to improve themselves because the mission to further enhance the status and dignity of the race should be embraced by all parties and not only Mara and the government.

"For four-and-a-half decades we were colonised and prevented from improving ourselves. We were disregarded and dismissed as though we did not have any rights at all.

"But now we have attained independence. Maybe 43 years of independence are insufficient to change not only our fate but also our progress," he said.

Mahathir also wants to know why only 35% of bumiputra university students are male, when there is an equal number of both genders in other communities here.

"Where have they gone? Do they think that since the women are studying, in future they can marry educated women and stay at home? Is that what the men of the future are going to be like?" he asked.