

# Fun-loving businessmen may be blacklisted

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JITRA, Thurs. The Government is considering blacklisting Malaysian businessmen who spend time at karaoke lounges and playing golf instead of attending business meetings and briefings when on official trips.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said such action was all the Government could take against such irresponsible businessmen.

"We can't take any other action it is not our right. But next time, they don't have to go," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on reports that businessmen who were part of his delegation to Indonesia recently had skipped meetings and business briefings to play golf and have karaoke sessions.

Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin was reported to have complained of the businessmen's behaviour upon his return to Malaysia from the Indonesian trip.

Dr Mahathir said he was sad that the incident had happened.

"I invited many businessmen to join the delegation with the hope of establishing good economic relations with Indonesia.

"However, I was informed many did not attend meetings which had been arranged . . . instead they went to play golf and visit karaoke lounges.

"That was not the purpose of the trip if they want to do that, then don't follow me," he added.

In **Sungai Petani**, Daim, when asked if the Finance Ministry would draw up stricter regulations for the selection of businessmen who would join future trips, said: "No, but we want to remind them that they should be more responsible in carrying out their duties as they have to uphold their good name and that of the country.

"Do your work first (referring to the businessmen) and when you have finished you can rest.

"If you only want to rest, you don't have to bother to do business," he told reporters after giving away meat to villagers of Kampung Bukit Selambau. today