

# Help bumi businessmen . hit by the downturn, Chinese urged

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**KUCHING, Sun:** The Chinese community has been urged to help their bumiputra counterparts rebuild their businesses affected by the economic downturn.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad believed that the Chinese community would continue to support any move to help the bumiputra community.

"I believe the Chinese community will help the bumiputra businessmen to regain what they have lost. And I hope you don't mind if some more handicap were to be given to the bumiputra business community," he said.

He was speaking at the opening of Wisma Chinese Chamber, built by the Sarawak Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

It houses the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

Mahathir said as the Chinese have accepted the objectives behind the New Economic Policy, which, among others, gives bumiputras the edge in economic opportunities, the community will also cooperate in helping the bumiputras.

While the government supports free market, the competitors must be equally matched. "Like in golf, some people play well, others need to be given handicap so that it will be an evenly matched competition," Mahathir said.