

Bumis in construction industry must start afresh: PM

By CLAUDIA THEOPHILUS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: Bumiputras in the construction industry will have to start afresh and join the overall revival in the building sector.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the construction sector, worst hit by the 1997 economic crisis, was already recovering well.

The bumiputras, he said, were

still facing a lot of problems in the industry, especially in settling loan problems with the banks.

He said if they cannot meet the demands of the banks, they are likely to go bankrupt or sell off or leave it to Danaharta to solve it.

"Either way, they are going to lose money and since they are rather fragile, their rehabilitation is much more difficult.

"So, they will have to begin all over again, maybe in a small way

... maybe sub-contracting and doing whatever jobbing they can," he said after the ground-breaking ceremony for 1,723 units of low-cost Sri Rakyat Apartment at Bandar Bukit Jalil today.

Mahathir said that to avoid a similar scenario in the future, companies are now required to show that they can sell, have actual bookings or made sales when they seek approval from the local authorities for the projects.