

24 JUL 2000  
MAHATHIR-BUSINESS  
BUMIS CAN EXCEL IN BUSINESSES

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- Bumiputeras who venture into manufacturing and other businesses could do as well as other races, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here tonight.

"The fact that you have a humble beginning need not hold you back if you are prepared to work hard until you acquire the technology and knowledge," he said.

The prime minister also said that the Malaysian business community should represent a balance of all races.

"I have also felt that in a multi-racial Malaysia, there should be representatives at every level of the three races which make up the major population of this country," he said when officiating Bangunan Sapura@Mines, Sapura Group's new corporate headquarters in Seri Kembangan near here.

Dr Mahathir advised the Malays to break away from old traditions of following the footsteps of their fathers that is the Malays should become farmers and fishermen while the Chinese, businessmen.

"So what we have to do is to break away from the mould to try new ideas, new ways, new methods," he added.

He urged Malaysians to believe in themselves and that they can achieve any goals that they have set their minds on.

Dr Mahathir cited Sapura as an example of a successful Bumiputera business group.

He said its success was a phenomena which everyone should be proud of as the process of growth is very important for a business.

Bangunan Sapura@Mines is an 11-storey building built on 5.53 acres (2.2ha) of land at the Mines Resort City.

The building adopts the concept of Islamic architecture clad with granite, Islamic motive, decoration and Moorish aluminium dome. -- BERNAMA

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