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Dr M urges Bumiputera to try new fields

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The present generation of Bumiputera must break the tradition of inheriting their fathers' occupations and strive to achieve success in challenging new fields, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister said such efforts would help to create a "tradition of success" among the Bumiputera.

This, he said, would ultimately erode the racial stereo-type which associated certain jobs or occupations with certain ethnic groups.

"I am sure Bumiputera who choose to go into business, manufacturing and high technology industries will succeed if they realise the past does not hold them back," he said when launching Sapura Group's new headquarters, known as Sapura @ Mines in Seri Kembangan near here.

The launching was in conjunction with the company's 25th anniversary.

Dr Mahathir cited Sapura Group founder and chairman Tan Sri Shamsuddin Abdul Kadir's success story.

From a humble beginning, he said, the company had grown to become a source of pride for the Bumiputera to learn from and emulate.

The company was incorporated in 1975 with only six employees, but now has three subsidiaries listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

It now has 2,200 employees with offices in Singapore, Thailand, Pakistan, China, the Philippines and other countries.

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