

# Plan your spending to avoid wastage

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KUALA LUMPUR Fri Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Malaysians to plan their spending to avoid wastage and losses

The Prime Minister said they should stop spending lavishly as such a culture could lead to negative consequences for themselves and the country

Businessmen who are also at the same time consumers practise good ethics and responsibility

Remember as consumers businessmen like to get good services and goods as businessmen we must also provide good service and goods Dr Mahathir said in his speech tonight to mark World Consumers Day at the Putra World Trade Centre here

He said businessmen would not lose as they would be appreciated and recognised for being ethical and trustworthy result

ing in their businesses doing better

Dr Mahathir called on leaders of consumer associations to be more pro active in helping the Government educate consumers especially in the globalisation era and the fast developing open market system

Consumer associations have a duty and responsibility to explain to the public the positive and negative aspects of globalisation and the impact of globalisation on the country the people and consumers he said

Dr Mahathir said the open market system practised by the country must also be explained to consumers so that they would not blame the Government when there were price fluctuations

Demands that quality and efficiency be raised but prices be reduced do not reflect sane careful thinking

Being aware that all costs have gone up but still demanding that prices not be raised but rather lowered surely is not reasonable he said

Dr Mahathir said consumer associations should help the government educate consumers with relations between them enhanced for the well being of consumers

As associations that have close ties with a target group at the grassroot level the information channelled by consumer associations can help the Government plan suitable policies for the country as a whole

Dr Mahathir said World Consumers Day also known as World Consumer Rights Day was to promote and enhance awareness among the public of their rights and responsibility as consumers

He said that while many consumers held

## and losses, urges PM

fast to the basic rights of consumers a large number always forget or were negligent in carrying out their responsibilities

For example all consumers want an environment that is clean healthy and safe But I always hear and read in the newspapers that many consumers are still not careful about caring for the environment by throwing rubbish all over the place

It is not appropriate that consumers demand their rights but at the same time neglect their responsibility to collectively care for a clean and safe environment he said

Dr Mahathir said the Government was serious about consumer protection with the setting up of a consumer claims tribunal representing another channel for consumers to seek compensation for losses

suffered during business transactions or services provided

He said consumers before this had to resort to civil courts which involved a difficult process high costs and a lot of time

Dr Mahathir said while people before had to meet to buy goods and use services now they need not do so with e commerce becoming more important in the future

He said the Government will always monitor the situation whether it involves consumers or the interests of businessmen to ensure the success of e commerce and looking after the interests of all quarters

He said as developing countries raced to provide lower wages and less costly factors for production to attract investors they also opened up their markets in the hope of having greater economic growth and a higher standard of living