

# Bigger pool of Bumi entrepreneurs soon

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KOTA KINABALU Sun → The Entrepreneur Development Ministry will introduce new policies and strategies under the Eighth Malaysia Plan to create a crop of resilient Bumiputera entrepreneurs to face the competitive era of globalisation

In this respect four strategies which include the creation of a conducive environment for entrepreneur development creation of competitive entrepreneurs human resource development and making entrepreneurship a culture have been outlined

This was disclosed by the Ministry's deputy secretary general Abdul Rahman Husin in his paper The Direction and Policy of Entrepreneur Development in Ma-

laysia/Sabah at the Sabah Bumiputera Economic Congress 2001

The congress held at the Magellan Sutra Hotel was opened yesterday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is on a two day visit to the State

Abdul Rahman said one way of creating a conducive environment for Bumiputera entrepreneurs was for the Government to continue providing funds and loans for businessmen in strategic fields like information technology

The Government should also consider setting up a special fund for Bumiputeras to venture into genetic engineering satellite and outer space engineering

Meanwhile *Bernama* reports that Energy Communications and

Multimedia Ministry secretary general Dr Halim Shafie reminded Bumiputera entrepreneurs that information technology was one field they could not ignore

He said there is an abundance of business opportunities in the field from the Government's effort to improve IT access in the rural areas

In a paper presented at the congress he said fixed line telephone penetration in rural areas had risen from 2.2 per 100 people in 1990 to 9.5 per 100 people in 2000

The fixed line telephone penetration in urban areas in 2000 was 32.7 per 100 people

He said e-commerce was one sector with great potential for growth