

Dr M defends Bakun dam award

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Mahathir: We should not discriminate against good record

By **R. Manirajan**

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon: A person who has a good performance record despite being a controversial figure should not be discriminated when tendering for projects, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Anyone who makes a good offer deserves to have it, the prime minister said when commenting on a report in *The Sun* that Sarawak tycoon Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing has won the tender for the construction of a RM200

million Bakun coffer dam.

"I don't want to discriminate anybody, simply because he is a controversial figure," he told reporters after launching a book on Petronas' history and achievements for the past 25 years.

"Even when he wants to do something honest, we say no. Should we let a person who is like that be always condemned? That is not fair to people," he said.

Mahathir said that when a person does something wrong, action will be taken against him.

"When a person has done nothing

wrong but just wants to do something that can be beneficial to us, I think we should evaluate the performance and not the history."

A spokesman for Ting confirmed to Reuters today the tycoon's private company, Global Uphill Sdn Bhd, has been awarded the contract.

The company beat three other shortlisted candidates - Loh & Loh Corporation Bhd, Hock Seng Lee Bhd, and Cahaya Mata Sarawak Bhd.