

Govt to hire more non-bumis

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KUALA LUMPUR: Employment will be restructured under the Eighth Malaysia Plan to improve the balance of bumiputras and non-bumiputras in the public and private sectors.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the concentration of non-bumiputras in the private sector would be reduced by increasing their numbers in the public sector.

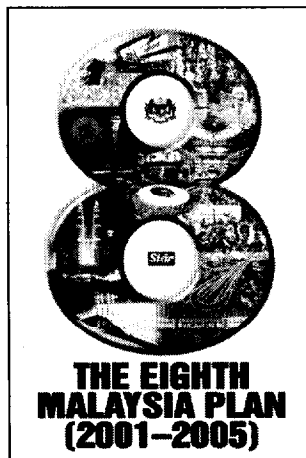
"The Government will endeavour to bolster the participation of non-bumiputras at all levels of the police, army and in the field of education," he said when tabling the Plan in Parliament.

Similarly, the private sector would be encouraged to raise the intake of bumiputras in management and supervisory positions as well as in their businesses, Dr Mahathir said.

"In this way, all the activities in the community will be reflective of the various races of Malaysia.

"Malaysians from Sabah and Sarawak will also be motivated to work in the peninsula to foster closer relationships among the states." To achieve this employment restructuring, he said more places would be made available for qualified bumiputra students in public and private institutions of higher learning, particularly in science, ICT and other professional courses.

"At the same time, attention will also be given towards improving their grasp of subjects, especially in Science, Mathematics and English," he said, adding that adequate financing would be provided to



help bumiputra students pay the higher fees in private institutions.

Declaring that only those bumiputras with talent and training would be eligible to be provided with entrepreneurial opportunities, licences and capital, Dr Mahathir warned that anyone found flouting rules would be black-listed.

"Bumiputras should give serious attention towards the formation of a commercial and industrial community among themselves.

"It's not a scheme to get rich quickly," he said.

To encourage more women to join the labour force, Dr Mahathir said the Employment Act would be amended to allow "new modes of working," such as teleworking, part-time work and job sharing.

On the economic indicators, Dr Mahathir said the figures provided by the Government were true and not fabricated, as claimed by certain parties.