

Stricter criteria in awarding projects

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KUALA LUMPUR: The criteria for companies to be awarded privatised projects would be tightened to prevent delays or abandoned projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said only companies with good track records and sound financial standing would be considered.

He said extensive background checks would be carried out on companies applying for privatised projects.

"We must make sure that

privatised projects are given only to really capable companies.

"Sometimes, companies which appear strong may be quite fragile financially and are not capable of withstanding the slightest of pressure," he told reporters at Parliament lobby after tabling the Plan yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said although the Government would generally award such projects to companies with proven capabilities, it had to be more

stringent in its criteria for future projects.

On the Plan, Dr Mahathir was confident that the programmes outlined would be well-received by the people provided that they were not instigated by irresponsible groups.

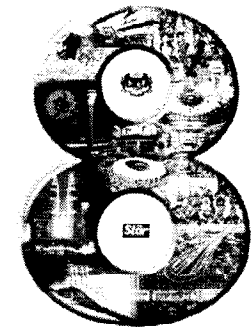
He said most Malaysians were generally very co-operative and understood that the programmes were planned for their benefit but there were bound to be some groups who would try to incite the

people.

Dr Mahathir said such groups were always inclined to obstruct and incite the people to object every time the Government initiated beneficial programmes.

He said they would do that no matter how good the Government's programmes were just so that the projects would be bogged down with problems.

Asked how the Government would deal with such problems, Dr Mahathir said that



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the Government would devote more time and energy to explain to the people so that they would understand.

"This is so unnecessary. It's because of such instigations that many things have to be shelved. We cannot proceed," he said.