

Move to boost lot of non-bumis wins praise from all

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BOTH the Opposition and the backbenchers welcomed the Government's measure to bolster the participation of non-bumiputras in the public sector.

Chow Kon Yeow (DAP - Tanjung) said the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was akin to an admission of a problem.

"Under the administration of former Prime Minister

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, there was a policy that out of four civil servants, one should be a non-bumiputra.

"But this was never put into place," he said, adding that at present, the civil service did not reflect the composition of races in Malaysia.

Chow also recommended a new sense of urgency towards the achieving of the New Economic Policy's objectives, especially when it had yet to ma-

terialise after over 30 years' of implementation.

Jimmy Donald (BN - Sri Aman) appealed for more Sarawakian bumiputras to be absorbed into the civil service.

"Many of them feel cheated and cynical when denied a government posting or a promotion, especially when they have all the credentials.

"Let's have more meritocracy among the bumiputras re-

gardless of religion or race.

"We are bumiputras but we're being treated like third class bumiputras," he said.

Jimmy said the Government should not be surprised if it should lose the support of the Dayaks.

"I hope that an audit panel be set up in the Prime Minister's Department to review all decisions on promotions and appointments," he said.

Hoo Seong Chang (BN -

Kluang) suggested that a trade centre for small and medium industries (SMI) would help to increase their competitive edge and economic resilience.

He suggested that priority be given to the SMIs so that they could contribute more to local markets and exports.

"Such a centre can also attract foreign SMIs to invest here and we hope to see local SMIs exchanging experiences

with them too," he said while debating the 8th Plan.

Kerk Kim Hock (DAP - Kota Melaka) suggested that the Government build more Chinese primary schools to solve the teacher shortage problem.

He also urged the Government to provide allocation of RM1bil for all Chinese schools and Chinese independent secondary schools in recognition of their contribution to the nation.