

PM: Family policy not to take govt contracts

STAR 29 APR 2001

SUBANG: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it is a "family" policy not to allow any of his children to be involved in government contracts.

However, the Prime Minister said he could not stop them if they were involved in projects or contracts in the private sector because they were businessmen.

"Other than that, I do not know anything about my children's businesses and never interfere with any of their decisions," he told reporters here yesterday after returning from an official visit to Dubai.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether his son Datuk Mokhzani's pullout from the corporate sector would have any effect on the bumiputra equity in the corporate sector.

On Thursday, Mokhzani resigned as the chief executive officer of Pantai Holdings Bhd and Tongkah Holdings Bhd and attributed the move to his disappointment over allegations made by irresponsible groups who tarnished his name and that of his father.

Mokhzani has a 12.6% direct interest in Tongkah Holdings and 32.9% interest in Pantai Holdings.

To a question on whether Mokhzani was doing it in defence of family honour, Dr Mahathir said: "No matter what I say, the people will still slander me and my family."