

# Don't ape others in business: PM

SUN, 29 JUN 2001

**'Copycat  
trend will  
bring failure'**

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By **R. Manirajan**

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs:** Malaysians should shed the habit of copying others in their business ventures and come up with innovative ideas to be successful, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the copycat trend should stop as it will only bring about failure in any business.

"We can see that if one *nasi lemak* stall is doing well, 10 or 20 stalls would spring up at the same location, the same goes for bookshops ... everybody copies what the other is doing," he said at the Venture 2001, Malaysia's business plan competition award presentation and lunch.

Mahathir said Malaysia needs people with new business ideas and is looking towards the younger generation to come up with them, especially in the area of information technology.

"Nowdays, we expect younger people who are able to master information technology, who are much more at home with computers and the Internet to come up with ideas and businesses," he said.

Malaysia, he said, is very much in the development of IT and has put in a lot of money to build the necessary infrastructure, including setting up of the Multimedia University.

He also hopes the younger generation can sharpen

their skills in planning new ideas for business.

The prime minister presented awards to winners of the top 10 teams. They are the top performers from 447 teams that took part in the first business plan competition which started last November and ended on May 25.

The competition was jointly organised by Mesdaq Bhd, McKinsey & Company Malaysia and Malaysian Institute of Management.