

Work harder, PM tells govt staff

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged civil servants to work harder to help the country develop faster.

Their contribution, he said, was also important in helping the Government fend off foreigners who seek to recolonise the country.

"We are still a free country today because we know how to manage the economy and did not have to borrow any money from these foreigners," he said at the Finance Ministry's monthly gathering at the Treasury Office in Jalan Duta.

Dr Mahathir, who took over as Finance Minister following the resignation of Tun Daim Zainuddin on June 1, said the country would not have been able to develop to what it was now if it had accepted loans

from the foreigners.

He said the foreigners would have extracted a high price for the loans and imposed strict conditions.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped staff of the ministry would constantly upgrade themselves to face the challenges of globalisation.

"If we are not efficient in managing our country's finances and are not wise in our spending, we will become dependent on those who want to dominate us," he added.

After the assembly, Dr Mahathir was joined by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik in receiving a delegation of shippers from China.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Ling met the shippers for about 40 minutes, before leaving the Treasury Office.