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# Govt will raise funds to acquire LRTs, says Mahathir

**PUTRAJAYA, Wed:** The government will raise funds to buy the two light rail transit companies, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We are looking into that. Obviously, you can't buy a company for nothing," he said when asked if the government would raise RM6 billion through the issue of bonds to buy

the LRT companies, Putra and Star.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Salleh told parliament today that a special purpose vehicle is studying the amount of bonds to be issued relating to the restructuring of the LRT companies.

Speaking to reporters after attending a closed-door meeting with board

members of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology here, Mahathir said the government has many ways of raising funds.

"The government is still credit-worthy. We will find no difficulty in raising funds and they are still fine-tuning the terms of our acquisition."

On the Singapore econo-

my, he said the government is watching the happenings in Singapore and how its economy will affect us.

"We are taking counter-measures and have injected additional funds to stimulate the economy."

He said Malaysia will identify new export markets and new manufacturing activities involving local manufacturers.