

'Learn new skills to expand business'

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KUCHING, Sat. — Bumiputera entrepreneurs should change their business culture and approaches to become more competitive so that they can take on bigger challenges, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

They must also be willing to learn new skills and have the urge to expand their business scope, he said when addressing members of the Sarawak Petty Traders Association here.

"Changing our business culture is not something we cannot do and

it is inevitable particularly with the changes in society," said Dr Mahathir who is on a two-day visit to the State.

He also reminded entrepreneurs on the need to have basic administrative skills in managing their capital.

He spoke on the importance of financial management which could determine the progress of their business and of saving their earnings for later use such as the expansion of their operations.

Dr Mahathir said the Govern-

ment was willing to assist genuine entrepreneurs in enhancing their skills and providing financial assistance.

However, he said, those intending to start any business venture should already have firm plans on the kind of business and its location so that they could tap into available opportunities.

Urging Bumiputera entrepreneurs to go into franchising, he said they should discard the practice of confining their business within their own circle.