

# ***Examine why we fail, PM tells Malays***

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malays should examine themselves to see why they fail in business and higher education, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said there was a tendency to blame others for their failures.

He said the Government had done much to help small entrepreneurs and petty traders, including by issuing licences, setting up one-stop centres, holding training programmes and setting up 36 multi-billion-ringgit funds to finance them.

"If we fail despite all these, we need to ask ourselves why.

"And if there are faults and weaknesses within ourselves, we need to rectify them," he said at a meeting with bumiputra petty traders and small entrepreneurs.

Dr Mahathir said when one started a business even on a small scale,

one should consider it a lifetime vocation and not a temporary job.

He also said the Malays should not borrow more money than they needed for their business.

"You need to safeguard your credibility and name. You must honour the repayment on loans you have taken otherwise it would give Malays a bad name.

"So, don't borrow RM1mil for a RM500,000 business and use the rest of the money to buy a Mercedes Benz," he said.

On education, Dr Mahathir voiced disappointment over the achievement of Malays at local universities that was below expectation.

He said due to the quota system, Malays made up 60% of those entering local universities.

"If we had gone by merit alone, perhaps only 20% of the Malays would have made it."

He said despite being given the

opportunity, only 40% who passed out from university were Malays.

"And even then, there are very few Malays who graduate with first-class honours even in Malay language studies," he said.

He noted that Chinese students had surpassed and outshone Malay students.

"If we say the education system is at fault and we need to correct it, it is the same system followed by the Chinese, so how can the Chinese students do so well?

"If we say the teachers are no good, they are the same ones who teach Chinese students. The medium of instruction, too, is in Bahasa Malaysia, so why can't we Malays excel?

"Are we (Malays) going to blame others for our failure? Should we not look at ourselves and see why we do not succeed, and correct these mistakes?" he said.