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MAHATHIR-BUMIPUTERA

DR MAHATHIR CRITICISES BUMIS WHO REAP SHORT TERMS GAINS

PETALING JAYA, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised bumiputeras who reap short term gains by selling their approved permits (APs) to non-bumiputeras.

Local importers need APs to bring in foreign-made motor vehicles into the country.

"We are disappointed. Although we have given them a lot of opportunities, many bumiputeras have wasted them," the prime minister said.

He said many bumiputeras who had been given opportunities either to sell new, used or reconditioned cars through the issuance of APs had sold them to others instead, including non-bumiputeras.

Such actions had undermined the government's endeavour to have more bumiputeras involved in business and entrepreneurship, said Dr Mahathir when he officiated at the launch of the first locally assembled Kia Spectra here.

The car is produced under a joint venture between Naza Kia Sdn Bhd and Kia Motors Corporation.

In lauding the boldness and commitment of the managing director of the Naza Group of Companies, Tan Sri SM Nasimuddin SM Amin, Dr Mahathir also hoped that many other bumiputeras would emulate the entrepreneur's successful footsteps.

"He (Nasimuddin) not only did not sell APs to anyone but instead buys them from other bumiputeras.

In an effort to create more bumiputera traders in new townships. Dr Mahathir said the government would continue to implement the PROSPER (Projek Usahawan Bumiputera dalam Perdagangan Sektor Peruncitan) or Bumiputera Entrepreneurs in the Retail Trade Sector project.

He said the government was facing a lack of bumiputera traders in new townships.

"We have set up the PROSPER project for bumiputeras to operate the retailing business so that new townships will reflect the unity of the various races in the country," he said. -- BERNAMA

NZ LES MKO SHY