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Dr M: Daim's policies to stay

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Financial policies put in place by former Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin would not be reviewed, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the Government would merely re-look at certain projects earmarked for takeovers, but would continue with the policies.

"No, no ... there is nothing to review ... we just continue. There are some things that we need to study ... like the LRT (Light Rail Transit System) takeover for example, we'll have a re-look at it, that's all."

He was asked if the Government was reviewing the policies which were put in place by Daim.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Finance Minister, was approached after he attended the Venture 2001 Business Plan Competition awards presentation.

In his speech earlier, the Prime Minister urged Malaysians, especially the younger generation, to inculcate a culture of innovation.

He said contrary to traditional beliefs, the present day business strived on ideas, innovations and the proper application of Information Technology, not merely capitals.

"We need a younger generation with fresh ideas ... new ideas thrown up and old ones improved. At present people are more interested in copying something that has already been done by someone else."

"If we do this (copying) extensively in any particular business then we will surely kill the business," he warned.

Citing the Multimedia University as an example of the Government's commitment, Dr Mahathir said the Government aspired for a more skilled and knowledgeable workforce which could by itself serve as a catalyst for growth.

He explained that if the country could provide highly innovative and knowledgeable human resource then the business community would converge to Malaysia.

"If our youngsters can focus and sharpen their skills then Malaysia will be able to grow steadily to achieve (the objectives of) Vision 2020," he added.

The Prime Minister later presented awards to the winners of the competition.