

PM: Bumis selling approved permits

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GURUN: The government's aspiration to ensure that bumiputras make up 30% of the entrepreneurs under the New Economic Policy has been thwarted as a result of a tendency to dispose approved permits (APs).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he is disappointed that many bumiputras granted APs to import used cars have abused the opportunities provided by the government.

He said the government had granted

thousands of APs to bumiputras to import used cars, especially from Japan, as part of efforts to help them become successful entrepreneurs.

"But they sell the APs for quick profits. Later, they return to ask for more APs from the government," he said. "They are not genuine entrepreneurs. They are vendors of APs and contracts."

The prime minister said some bumiputra entrepreneurs are totally lacking in business acumen and merely stay

home, handing over the running of their businesses to non-bumiputras.

He said the bumiputras would have reaped huge profits if they had ventured into business using the APs provided by the government.

"I am glad that although many have abused the APs, there are still a few bumiputras who managed to take advantage of the opportunity to become successful entrepreneurs and have made profits to expand their businesses," he said.