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No help for those who are corrupt, says PM

SHAH ALAM, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, stressing the need for an efficient and clean civil service, said today he would not help those found to be corrupt.

"When action is taken, please do not write to me or seek my help as I cannot help you," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a meeting with Selangor Government officials at the Dewan Jubli Perak here.

About 2,000 State officials attended the gathering at the hall, while more than 1,000 others listened to the Prime Minister via video conferencing from their respective districts.

Dr Mahathir said although it would be wrong to say that the country was corruption-free, "we are far better than some countries, even the developed ones.

"Thank God our Government officials are still trustworthy, although there are some black sheep," he said, adding that the long arm of the law would get them, sooner or later.

Dr Mahathir said the Government needs an efficient and corrupt-free civil service to ensure unhindered development, peace and stability.

He said the nation could not be developed merely by formulating policies, as poorly implemented good policies were similar to bad policies.

Dr Mahathir also touched on many other subjects, ranging from the rationale for the 1998 selective capital controls to lessons from his recent visit to Russia, Germany and Poland.

He said the Malays, as a community, must learn to discard negative values and grab onto fresh ones which could be beneficial to their continued survival.

"Like the Japanese, we must be hardworking, innovative and should have this culture of willing to venture into new fields.

"We must have a mindset which is not chained," he said.

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