

EPF may invest in projects, says PM

THE STAR 25 JUN 200

THE Government is looking at ways to use the Employees Provident Fund money for infrastructure projects.

"The decision on this will be made by the EPF's investment board," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He added that it was not the Government's policy to be overly keen on "fiddling" with the interest rate to spur the economy.

"We are unlike the United States which has made four changes to the interest rate. Yet, the effect is not too

much," he told Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP - Kepong).

Dr Mahathir also advised the people to invest in shares now if they have the means to do so.

"This is the time to buy shares. Although the market has gone up, (many counters) are still under-priced," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was confident that the stimulus package announced last month would help the economy grow by 4.5% this

year.

Dr Mahathir later said the Government would not extend money for infrastructure projects, including buildings.

"What we think the EPF can do is to finance the companies building the buildings. And then we will lease the buildings from the companies."

He said with the lease, those who received financing from the EPF could pay back with a much higher interest rate.