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Dr M: Consultant must take blame, too

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed his deepest disappointment and regret on the school computer labs controversy.

The Prime Minister said the matter had been discussed in the Cabinet yesterday and it felt that apart from the Malay contractors, the project management consultant should also be blamed.

"If the contractors are at fault, we will take action," he said after officiating at the

Malay Contractors Association annual general meeting here.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted to provide opportunities to Malay contractors under the school lab construction project.

"We gave the job to the main contractor so that the contractor can give to smaller contractors.

"I was told that the contract was sold to another person, and this person sold it to another and it went on. By the time the

fifth person got it, the contract's value will drop and in order to make profit, this contractor will have to cut cost.

"Then he will buy hollowed wood, the cement mixture is affected and now you get buildings collapsing," he added.

Dr Mahathir said some 10,000 government contracts were awarded every year and the Public Works Department was finding it difficult to monitor and ensure all projects were built according to set standards.