

PM: Stop relying on 'govt projects

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PUTRAJAYA: Malay contractors have been told to stop depending on Government projects and to be trustworthy in conducting their business to protect the reputation of Malay businessmen.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a show of the success of Malay contractors would be when they are awarded projects developed by the private sector.

"I have checked that 'hearly all Malay contractors are given Government projects. I think they should try to bid for projects in the private sector as a way to establish their credibility.

"I will be very happy if they can secure such projects. When we can do this, then we are successful because we are not dependent on the Government anymore," he said when opening the Malay Contractors Association's annual general meeting here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that Malays could do anything provided they inculcate the correct values and ways to be successful.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said there were Malay contractors who were unsuccessful because they were unable to resolve problems like servicing bank loans.

He said the economic crisis had also affected Chinese contractors but they were able to overcome their problem.

"We need to ask ourselves why can't we be like them. It is difficult when we blame others for our own weaknesses.

"I think we need to improve ourselves first and don't lie to ourselves

when we have become unsuccessful.

"Find the solutions, and we should be responsible (as) any of our wrongdoings can also affect other Malays," Dr Mahathir said.

Also present at the general meeting were association president Datuk Roslan Awang Chik and association secretary-general Datuk Jamaluddin Abdul Rahim.