

# Matrade weighing its options

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**IPOH:** The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) is looking at two options in its corporatisation strategy, said its chairman, Datuk Husni Hadnazzlah.

He said the two options were either to make Matrade self-reliant or maintain the present set-up minus the government bureaucracy.

"We will present a study on the options and its implications to the Government by the end of the year," he said after attending a programme to pro-

mote a caring family and community in conjunction with an anti-drug campaign at Gugusan Manjoi here yesterday.

Husni was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement when tabling Budget 2004 that Matrade would be corporatised.

If self-reliance was adopted it would result in Matrade charging for services rendered to the business community, he said.

It would discourage the business community from seeking

Matrade's services, thus defeating the purpose of Matrade in helping businessmen to look for new markets, he added.

Now, he said Matrade did not charge the business community for services such as establishing networks for them to export their products.

Under the second option, Husni said Matrade would still be watched over by the International Trade and Industry Ministry but its board of directors would be given absolute power to make decisions.