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# DR M: GOVT TO CUT RED TAPE

NOT- 18/12/2018 pg. 5

It includes reducing the number of approvals required for projects

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**T**HE government will continue to reduce bureaucracy, such as the number of approvals for projects to take off, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The public doesn't know that there are many layers of approvals that need to be secured before projects can take off.

"We want to reduce and simplify to facilitate the ease of doing business.

"The bureaucratic procedure remains long.

"We want to reduce it so that after businesses send in their applications, it may require only two or three approvals from the authorities," he said.

He was answering questions at the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might) consultation, chaired by Might chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali.

Present were Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Darell Leiking, Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin and En-



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad signing a plaque while launching the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might) building in Cyberjaya yesterday. With him are Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali (fourth from left) and Might chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali (third from left). PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR.

trepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof.

The dialogue, organised by Might, involved more than 50 players in the high-tech industry.

During the session, Dr Mahathir answered questions from the players, including ensuring research results be converted into wealth-generating businesses.

He spent about an hour mingling with industry players before

visiting the Might Technomart exhibition space, showcasing innovations and knowhows.

Dr Mahathir urged technopreneurs to look into more waste-to-wealth initiatives, while giving examples that every year people bought new handphones and threw away the old ones, which could have harmful effects on the environment.

"Management of waste is something that technology should look

into, so that we can separate the waste effectively and find new uses to what, at the moment, we see as waste."

Dr Mahathir said microchip technology was something that Malaysia should focus on since most of the new high-tech products had microchips.

"These are the directions that we can take to catalyse the development of our economy."