

NO23: (F)
MAHATHIR-FURNITURE

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 13⁸¹ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED LOCAL FURNITURE AND HANDICRAFT MAKERS TO STRIVE TO MAKE THE COUNTRY A LEADING EXPORTER OF SUCH ITEMS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING A FURNITURE AND HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION AT CHANGKAT PAVILION HERE TODAY, SAID THERE WAS A HUGE EXPORT MARKET FOR FURNITURE.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE PROPOSED TRADING AGENCIES ALONG THE STYLE OF THE JAPANESE SOGOSHOSHAS IN THE COUNTRY, FURNITURE WOULD BE ONE OF THE TRADING ITEMS AND ITS EXPORT MARKET WAS EXPECTED TO PICK UP FURTHER.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH SPENT MORE THAN TWO HOURS VISITING THE VARIOUS DISPLAY CENTRES AT THE EXHIBITION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1311/LK

NO24: (F)
MAHATHIR-FURNITURE 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE HOWEVER FELT THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO UPGRADE THE DESIGN CONCEPTS.

HE SAID: "WE ARE STILL BACKWARD IN THE AREA. DESIGNS ACCEPTABLE TO MALAYSIANS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO FOREIGN BUYERS."

HE CALLED ON THE ASSOCIATION OF FURNITURE EXPORTERS TO SET UP A DESIGN CENTRE FOR MEMBERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WOULD BE EXPENSIVE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL MAKER TO HAVE HIS OWN DESIGN TEAM BUT IF THE ASSOCIATION COULD SET UP SUCH A CENTRE, DESIGNS COULD BE DONE FOR ANYONE FOR A FEE.

HE SAID MALAYSIAN FURNITURE MAKERS SHOULD NOT MERELY THINK OF COPYING DESIGNS BUT INNOVATE DESIGNS ACCEPTABLE TO THE EXPORT MARKET. -- BERNAMA MORE 1317/LK

NO25: (F)
MAHATHIR-FURNITURE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS TIME FOR MALAYSIA TO EXPORT FURNITURE AND NOT MERELY RAW MATERIALS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD IMPOSED NEW TAXES ON RATTAN TO DISCOURAGE ITS EXPORT, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1318/LK