

IMPROVISE ON PRODUCTS, PM TELLS MAKERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Made-in-Malaysia products can gain world acceptance if local makers introduce new features into them. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Many countries now leading in various industries were once copying from others as well and producing items in improvised forms, the Prime Minister said when launching the National Science and Technology Week at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

"We already know how the various products are made. We should try to improvise by adding new features and taking advantage of the low labour cost in the country," he said.

He said such "reverse engineering" could speed up the

process of technology transfer and Malaysians should not be ashamed to practise it.

He said the various research institutions could set up divisions specifically to look into this approach.

"We may fail at the first try, but if we are persistent we may reap some good results from such reverse engineering," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's performance in various fields showed that the "learning curve" among Malaysians was on the increase.

He added that some items were already in the market and it would not be long before Made-in-Malaysia products gained an identity of their own.

Dr Mahathir said there were three important factors

to ensure the success of science and technology in national development. They were:

- WILLINGNESS of local scientists and technologists to make their contributions in the field of research and development;

- ABILITY of the Government to provide the necessary infrastructure, policies and programmes to support such activities; and

- READINESS of local entrepreneurs to use the findings of science and technology surveys as a means of going into new ventures.

Dr Mahathir said the Government hoped that at least 25 per cent of all research and development activities would be carried out by the private sector.

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