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Mahathir-plant

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SHAH ALAM, July 16<sup>91</sup> (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad has said that the opening of the Proton-engine and transmission plant is a starting point towards the production of essential components requiring expertise and high technology.

He said that by introducing that division of the vital component industry which involved a huge capital, Malaysia would be able to monopolise the machining field, another important aspect in its industrialisation process.

The success would enable the country to move towards capability in casting and forging, two basic processes that would complement the production and engineering aspects, he added.

Thereafter, Malaysia would be capable of producing all its engineering parts, he said when launching the 300,000th unit of the Proton Saga and opening the Proton engine and transmission plant here today.

He was confident that the forging and casting industries, still not fully developed, would become more viable when Malaysia was capable of notching high volume of production. -- more

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He said that the government would continue to provide encouragement to assist the development of such strategic projects and other support industries like the manufacturing of mould and dies.

Initially, Malaysia would need to acquire foreign technology, provide training and enter into technical agreements, he added.

Such measures were required to improve productivity and to further promote the manufacturing system and techniques as an initial step towards achieving the objective of making Malaysia an industrialised nation.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir called on local entrepreneurs and foreign investors to jointly ensure the success of the sector because the transfer of technology would not take place if all concerned were not determined to acquire the technology.

At the function, the Prime Minister planted a cinnamon tree in the compound of the plant. He later toured all production sections.

He was accompanied by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Syed Hamid Albar and Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib. -- Bernama

♥16/07/16-45MST