

U GE 12-11 00177 EA713

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Mahathir-Chile

FIRST, MALAYSIA-CHILE JOINT VENTURE OFFICIATED

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KLANG, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Chile today took a step forward toward greater industrial co-operation with the official opening of their first joint venture, Kris Safety Footwear Sdn Bhd here.

The official opening of the factory, which marks the beginning of Chile-Malaysia co-operation in this country and symbolised South-South co-operation, was jointly performed by Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Azocar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The safety footwear factory in Pahdamaran, a joint venture between Beldran Ilharreborde S.A, of Chile and Landpac Group, was the result of Dr Mahathir's visit to Chile last year.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said: "Today, we witness the result of the government's call to strengthen South-South relations and this represents Chile's first investment not only in Malaysia but in the Asean region."

He added that the project was of great significance and meaningful although it was not a large project in terms of investment. -- more,

▼12/11/12-45MST

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Repeat

Mahathir-Chile 2 Klang

"Sometimes, it is better to start small and Kris Safety Footwear is an example how international business co-operation need not necessarily have to be confined to big companies," he said.

Expressing joy over the joint venture, he said the quick implementation of the project was praiseworthy.

He added: "To the Chilean business community, I am happy to once again invite all to play a positive part in joint ventures in line with the national development policies of Malaysia."

"To Malaysian entrepreneurs, I hope they will not miss this golden opportunity to establish contacts with their Chilean counterparts."

He called on local entrepreneurs to grab the business opportunities to achieve Malaysia's objective of becoming a developed country by the year 2020. -- more

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Mahathir-Chile 3 (last) Klang

Kris Footwear produces quality safety footwear for export,

Its total production for the whole of next year have been booked for export to Europe and North America and future marketing was expected to focus on the Asia Pacific region.

Dr Mahathir commended the company's marketing strategy which he described as a wise one because the move towards industrialisation in developing countries would assure higher demand for the footwear.

At the ceremony, Aylwin received a gift of a keris set, the symbol of a Malay warrior, and Dr Mahathir received a Chilean-made saddle. -- Bernama

▼12/11/13-02MST