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We will try to break into Nafta, says Dr M

By RUBIAH RAHMAN

ALOR STAR? Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said ~~yesterday~~ Malaysia will try to "break into" the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) market.

The Prime Minister said the United States-Canada-Mexico pact would render Malaysia's goods less competitive.

Malaysia might lose out to the United States and Canadian goods produced in Mexico due to its low production cost, he said.

"The United States and Canada will make use of Mexico's lower cost (of production) to produce cheaper goods," he said after addressing Kubang Pasu constituents in Bukit Tangga.

"The agreement will obstruct us but we will try to break into their market."

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the signing of the Nafta treaty in Washington on Wednesday.

He said Malaysia was concerned as its trade with the United States was 18 per cent, while moves had ~~just been~~ made to step up trade with Mexico.

"We feel very bad that while they (US) have formed Nafta, they have opposed our EAEC (East Asian Economic Caucus) proposal," he said.