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MALAYSIA MASTERS COMPUTER MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY, SAYS DRM

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MELAKA, April 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia has been able to master the computer manufacturing technology which has hitherto been the monopoly of developed countries such as the United States and Taiwan.

The Prime Minister said other countries have acknowledged Malaysia-produced computers as being of high quality, comparable to those produced elsewhere.

Some computer companies in Taiwan and the United States had been bought by Malaysians and transferred back to this country, he told reporters at the end of his two-day visit to Melaka.

Although the quality of Malaysia-made computers was similar to those produced in other countries, the cost of manufacture in this country was lower because of low cost of land and utilisation of efficient manpower at low wages, he said.

He said the low wages in this country were an advantage in attracting investors. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said low wages resulted in a low cost of living in this country but this did not mean that the purchasing power was also low.

"Even with low wages, we can buy as much as can be bought with the high wages in other countries. For example, one pound sterling in Britain can buy as much as one ringgit can in Malaysia whereas one pound was equal to more than four Malaysian ringgit," he said.

He advised traders not to raise production costs indiscriminately because this could cause Malaysian products to lose their competitiveness.

This would prevent the entry of investors to the country, which would result in high unemployment, he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir presented the Melaka Historical City honorary citizen award to former Petronas president Tan Sri Abdullah Salleh. -- Bernama

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