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Mahathir-boats

MALAYSIA, CAN NOW VENTURE INTO BOAT-BUILDING INDUSTRY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

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SHAH ALAM, June 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia is now ready to venture into ~~pleasure~~ boat-building industry with the acquisition of needed technology and expertise.

He said that with increased incomes, Malaysians now could afford to buy pleasure boats.

"This means we can now build and sell such boats," he told reporters after visiting the 14th Malaysia International Boat Show at Shah Alam Lake Garden here.

The boat show, dubbed one of South East Asia's biggest and successful marine leisure shows, displays among others the power boats, jet-skis and yachts.

Dr Mahathir, who spent about three hours touring the various pavilions of some 50 local and foreign exhibitors, noted that Malaysian entrepreneurs had succeeded in venturing into the industry without any incentive from the government.

"The time has come to develop Malaysia's boat industry," he said.

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Mahathir-boats 2 (last) Shah Alam

Dr Mahathir said that in view of wide interest in the boat show, the organiser could hold it several times a year at different places with each place catering for a special type of boat such as the mega yacht.

He was also glad to note that this year's show had succeeded in attracting more exhibitors and spectators.

While at the Radian Technology Sdn Bhd's pavilion, which exhibits satellite communication equipment, the Prime Minister was linked to the Malaysian Commissioner in London for a brief conversation.

During the visit, Dr Mahathir also flagged off participants of the jet-skis race, visited a painting exhibition and took a ride in the RM153,000 yacht, "Ambassador Gulf Craft".

He was accompanied by the Tan Sri Abdul Wahab Nawawi, chairman of Protemp Services Sdn Bhd, the organiser of the boat show, and Mara Shipyard Engineering Terengganu General Manager Haji Kamarul Bahrin Abdul Hamid. Mara Shipyard will be the builder of Malaysian national boat. --Bernama

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