

PM: Leisure craft industry set to take off

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SHAH ALAM, Sun. — The boating and leisure craft industry in Malaysia is set to take off as local people are able to afford such pleasure craft, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the time had come for the local boat and ship building industry to develop its full potential.

"There is a lot of potential as we have the expertise not only to build boats but also sell them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was no need for the government to provide incentives for the local industry as Malaysians were capable of doing it on their own.

He was speaking to reporters after attending the 4th Malaysia International Boat Show at the Shah Alam Lake Garden today.

Dr Mahathir said he was pleased by the response

from the public to this year's boat show. They comprised not just exhibitors but also an increasing number of buyers.

He said this reflected the increasing purchasing power of Malaysians.

Asked if the Government would consider shifting the location for the event elsewhere considering that large boats were not able to enter this year's event, Dr Mahathir said it was not necessary.

He said two or three boat shows could be held in the country and there could even be one for mega yachts held elsewhere. He added that special boat shows could also be organised for this purpose.

Dr Mahathir earlier toured the various booths and inspected some of the pleasure craft, speedboats and jet skis on display.