

# Mahathir: Tap food processing industry

5-19-111 1988  
BUTTERWORTH: There is vast potential in the food processing industry and Malaysians should tap the growing market, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said Malaysia still imported about 70 per cent of the raw materials for its food manufacturing industry.

He stressed that efforts must be made to improve the situation.

Although production had improved from RM4.6 billion in 1986 to RM9.4 billion last year, Malaysia still imported RM2.3 billion of processed food last year, he added.

Dr Mahathir, however,

said that exports had improved from RM812 million in 1986 to RM2.02 billion last year.

"Dairy products and animal feed, sugar and drinks production are among the major contributors to the industry.

"As a whole, Malaysia is still a major importer of processed food and this situation should be rectified," he said at the opening of Barkath Co-Ro Manufacturing Sdn Bhd in Mak Mandin yesterday.

The Prime Minister said Malaysian manufacturers should also tap the production of fruit juice.

He said this would help meet the increasing demand.