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Mahathir-Product

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIAN-MADE PRODUCTS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysians should be confident in using locally-invented products to develop the growth of home-made goods.

"We have to get used to the idea that we are not inferior to others, that we can do these things ourselves," he said.

Speaking at a news conference after opening the Infotech Malaysia '96 conference at the Putra World Trade Centre here, Dr Mahathir said the faults and weaknesses of the local products would only be known after their usage.

"Initially, there will be some problems which have to be eliminated but until you use it, you will not find the faults and weaknesses," he added.

He said that were many things invented and produced in Malaysia which could not gain the acceptance of the public and the government agencies.

Earlier, at a video-conference session, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia should start developing its own computer software to solve the problem of expensive imported software.

"Malaysians always believe that whatever is made by foreigners is better, I even have problems with the government agencies," he said in reply to a question posed by a student from Universiti Sains Malaysia on costly software that most students could not afford.

The prime minister also cited an example of a locally-made ballast (a component used in fluorescent lights) which was not well-received by the public and government agencies.

On the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), he said the government was willing "to stick its neck out" to ensure the success of the project.

He said the participation of the government in the project could be seen through its preparations such as drafting new policies and laws relating to information technology and the MSC. -- BERNAMA

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