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Mahathir-Boats

MALAYSIAN MADE BOATS CAN PENETRATE WORLD MARKET, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysian made boats can penetrate the world market if greater attention was given to quality and design.

He said local boat builders were capable of making quality boats of international design.

"Our boat builders have the capability ... to build wooden boat with different designs but the quality must be on par with that of Europe," he told reporters after half an hour cruise on board the locally made sailing boat "Maizura" in Kuala Muda waters, here.

The boat, named after Dr Mahathir's daughter, took Pantai Cenang's boat builders Omar Din and Said Bulat five months to complete. "Maizura" adopts the design of a Greek sailing boat belonging to Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said he had bought the Greek sailing boat to allow local boat builders to study the building technique used.

He was satisfied with the quality of workmanship of the "Maizura" which is made of cengal wood.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied during the trip by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Ekran Bhd executive chairman Tan Sri Ting Peng Khiing and Langkawi Development Authority General Manager Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib.

Dr Mahathir is here to open the second Langkawi International Motor Show (LIMOS '96) participated by over 80 companies including eight from overseas.

He will also launched new models such as the Rover 200, Guzzi and Porsche Boxter during the show. -- BERNAMA

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