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Mahathir-MAS

MAS SHOULD BUILD AIRCRAFT INTERIOR LOCALLY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today MAS Aerotechnologies, a MAS subsidiary, should start importing `green' or bare aircraft and build the interior locally.

"MAS has done so well so far, and if MAS gets into the partial building of aircraft, there will be a lot that MAS can do to reduce the nation's balance of payments deficit," he said when launching MAS Aerotechnologies at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport here.

He said it was important that Malaysia learn to do things locally to save costs on imports. Nonetheless, he said, quality should not be compromised in efforts to save cost.

Dr Mahathir also said that changes were necessary to achieve prosperity and MAS had accepted the need to change.

"MAS has been quite big. Like a person who is getting fat, it will be difficult to move.

"The only choice is to get rid of the fat or use it for other purposes. MAS has recognised the need to use its extra resources and establish a new subsidiary such as MAS Aerotechnologies," he said.

Meeting reporters after the launch, the prime minister said that another way to reduce the trade deficit was to produce electronic parts for aircraft locally.

It was possible to have Boeing produce its parts here, he added.

MAS Aerotechnologies started out as MAS' Engineering Division. It is reputed for its excellent maintenance quality which has won it several internationally renowned awards for quality.

It is well-known for its vast experience with B737 aircraft and is now providing services for airlines from India, China and Indonesia. -- BERNAMA

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