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Anwar-components

SCRUTINY OF LOCAL CONTENT ENHANCED

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- The government will be more careful of what is defined as local component to ensure that it truly contains local materials, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

Calling on the local companies supplying components to the manufacturing industries to give attention to this effort, he said there were local components which were found to contain 70 per cent imported materials.

"This is a challenge to the local firms not to treat lightly efforts to produce goods locally," he said when opening the conference on "Using IT to Build a Better Future - Preparing Malaysia for the Multimedia Super Corridor" at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Scrutiny of the local content was needed because all this while the government had given various incentives in the name of local components, said Anwar, who is also the Finance Minister.

He said the local companies had a lot of opportunities in this effort, especially when the manufacturing sector in the country was shifting from marketing medium-technology labour-intensive goods to producing high-technology sophisticated goods.

Anwar also stressed the need to give priority to the use of local materials in other sectors like tourism.

He said there were hotels that preferred to use imported crockery and furniture when such items were obtainable in the country.

"There are local furniture companies exporting to Europe and the United States... their furniture is used in American hostels but not in Malaysia," he said.

At the function, Anwar also announced the appointment of Datuk Dr Tengku Azzman Shariffadeen as chief executive of Mimos Bhd, the corporatised entity of Mimos, the Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems. Dr Azzman was its director-general before the corporatisation on Nov 1 this year.

Anwar also said the Information Technology Consultative Council chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to meet in San Francisco next January.

On the proposed cyberbill, Anwar said it was expected to be tabled at the current Dewan Rakyat sitting or at the coming March/April session at the latest.

The legislation would be used for the Multimedia Super Corridor which was being developed, he said. -- BERNAMA

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