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Mahathir-Composite

USE MORE COMPOSITE PRODUCTS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia must be able to participate in the ever-growing business of fabricating composite products that are vital in the construction of aircraft, including military planes, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said composites are now being used in highly sophisticated military aircraft.

Malaysia must have the capacity to use and apply composite products in research, he said.

"I believe that composite products will be the material of the future," he said before witnessing the signing of an agreement between Airod Sdn Bhd and ShinMaywa Industries Ltd of Japan at Carcosa Seri Negara here.

The agreement is on the intention of the two companies to cooperate in fabricating and assembling aircraft parts and components, in particular for the Boeing 777.

It also provides for Airod to be involved in works associated with fabricating components and the parts for all models of Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Gulfstream jets.

Airod president Datuk Ahmad Johan signed on behalf of his company while ShinMaywa was represented by its director for aircraft division, Takaoki Kiho.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would have to go into the manufacturing of aircraft "gently".

He said by manufacturing composite products locally through joint ventures with foreign companies, Malaysia would be able to build its own aircraft and even rockets.

"And in order to make the composite parts here, it is necessary to form alliances with companies that have the expertise," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia has the capability to make the composite products for France's Arianspace rockets. --BERNAMA

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