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Chamber tells members to buy more from Asean

MUAR, Thurs. - The 2,000-strong Johor Chinese Chamber of Commerce yesterday called on its members to intensify trade with Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and other Asean countries to cushion the impact of the drop of the ringgit.

Its vice-chairman, Chua Tuan Meng, said now was the time to strengthen trade relations with these countries.

JCCC also called on its members to buy less from the United States and other Western countries because of higher prices caused by the plunge of the ringgit.

The JCCC members were also told to put on hold import of non-essential goods from the West until the present financial crisis was over.

"I agree with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who said that what we have worked for in the past 40 years can be destroyed by rouse speculators in a matter of weeks," he said.

Chua said JCCC was monitoring the situation closely, as any plunge in the ringgit and share prices would affect trade and the country's economy.

"Malaysians must stand behind the Government to check foreign influences on our economy and refrain from buying unnecessary imported goods at much higher prices," he added.

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