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(Developing countries building a ... )

DEVELOPING countries building a motor vehicle industry are entitled to some protection despite calls for an open market, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said because the car industry is capital-intensive it "needs a bit of protection" to survive in the highly-competitive global car manufacturing environment. Dr Mahathir also said developing countries should not fear of venturing into the car industry.

"I can assure you that when Malaysia ventured into the car manufacturing industry in 1983/1984 we needed government protection," he said when chairing a session on 'Technology for Emerging Economies' on the second day of the Langkawi International Dialogue.

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