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Mahathir-Technology

DR MAHATHIR IMPRESSED WITH MALAYSIANS' ABILITY TO LEARN FAST

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- The ability of Malaysians to learn new and various technology quickly will propel the country's industrialisation move, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said he was pleasantly surprised to see that Malaysians were now able to produce high-precision components when he toured an exhibition of small- and medium-scale industries (SMIs) here.

What impressed him was that the effort had been achieved not long after the government commented last year that components purportedly produced in Malaysia were actually just the casing while the inside parts were still being imported.

"This morning, I was happy to see that this has already been done in a short space of one year...these high-precision components have now been manufactured and assembled in Malaysia," he said after launching a fairs and exhibitions company here.

He said the government felt it was important that the so-called child parts

-- the inside of the components -- be manufactured and assembled locally to reduce imports.

"This capacity to learn quickly will propel us very rapidly into the information age," he said.

To further highlight the point, Dr Mahathir related his visit to a glass factory in Langkawi producing high-quality crystal items that could fetch as high as RM2,000 a piece, two days ago.

"The Swiss manager was telling me that he could train these boys from Langkawi in a much shorter time than he could train a European worker to blow glass...this is quite an art," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should keep abreast with developments in the world in order to acquire knowledge.

Towards this end, he said trade fairs were important not only for the people to identify business potential but to learn new technology.

At the function, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of an agreement between a local firm, InterAsia Fairs and Exhibitions Sdn Bhd, and Hannover Fairs Asia Pte Ltd, to jointly organise three international exhibitions in Malaysia.

The exhibitions relating to industrial, information technology and telecommunications and automotive would be held within the next two years.

-- BERNAMA

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