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Souvenirs

KOH PROPOSES DONATIONS TO REPLACE SOUVENIRS

PULAU PINANG, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today proposed that organisers of functions replace souvenirs intended for leaders with donations for various organisations including the government supervised trust funds.

Contributions made through the leaders would be more meaningful than giving souvenirs or gifts for personal use of leaders invited to officiate at functions, he told reporters after opening a networking seminar for small-and medium-scale industries (SMIs) here.

He suggested that organisers arrange donation presentation to welfare and charitable bodies such as the State Welfare Fund, the Yang Dipertua Negeri Fund and State Cultural Fund to commemorate their functions.

"It is meaningless to give souvenirs which is of no use to recipients and merely keep them in their office or at home," he said when commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposal that politicians and civil servants must surrender valuable souvenirs or gifts to the Treasury.

"At times, I myself don't open the gifts for weeks and when I find the souvenirs very expensive, I will return them to the well-wishers requesting them to replace the gifts with contributions for charity," he said.

In his speech, Dr Koh urged SMIs to upgrade their production capacity for export market besides serving the domestic market.

He also said the state government would provide encouragement and support for the manufacturing and tourism industries as the two sectors could contribute significantly to the state's economic growth. -- BERNAMA

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