

22/09/1997

Malaysia may cut imports quoted in US dollars

Badrul Hisham Mahzan; Joniston Bangkuai

TAWAU, Sun. - Malaysia may reduce its purchase of goods quoted in US dollars following that currency's appreciation against the ringgit.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this to reporters after opening the Sabah Progressive Party Congress today.

He said Malaysia might buy products which were quoted in other currencies, like the deutschemark which had not appreciated against the ringgit.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia had to reassess its position in this matter as such reassessment would help determine whether the country would buy or sell more goods or whatever.

To a question whether the details of new strategies on combating the currency fluctuation would be spelt out in the 1998 Budget next month, he said it would not.

"It has already began. For example, we are cutting down on imports now including unnecessary imports like luxury cars."

Earlier, when opening the RM49 million 18-hole Shan Sui Golf and Country Club, also in Tawau, Dr Mahathir said the ringgit's depreciation against the US dollar was an added boost to the tourism industry.

"Tourists from countries with strong currencies are expected to visit Malaysia because of the affordable services."

(END)