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Prepare for listing on Mesdaq: Affifudin

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DEPUTY Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifudin Omar yesterday urged Bumiputera companies involved in high-technology industries to prepare themselves for listing on the Malaysian Exchange of Securities Dealing and Automated Quotation (Mesdaq).

Mesdaq is expected to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October. It aimed at allowing the trading of shares of small-capital, high-technology companies with little or no track record.

Affifudin said companies such as Zanwa Sdn Bhd, which is a wholly Bumiputera-owned company and specialises in high-technology electrical engineering, should prepare themselves for listing on Mesdaq.

He was speaking to reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after the signing of an agreement by Siemens AG of Germany, Koncar Power Transformers Ltd of Croatia and Zanwa Sdn Bhd.

Affifudin said the Government is encouraging local companies to relocate their resources from the industrial sector to the production of non-electronic products. This is to ensure that local companies are not affected too much by the weaker ringgit.

"At the moment, we are very much dependent on electronic products and one of the problems that we are facing is competition from cheaper producers such as China and Vietnam.

"So what we must do now is to relocate our resources to produce industrial goods which are tradeable," he said.

Affifudin cited Zanwa Sdn Bhd as an example. It has been granted a licence to manufacture power transformers locally and will receive technical assistance and expertise from both Siemens AG and Koncar Power Transformers Ltd.

"This is one development which the Government welcomes," he said.

Affifudin said Malaysia is a small country so it is dependent on trade with other countries. "We need friends not only to trade with, but to transfer technological expertise as well," he added.

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