

# Expect the best in all <sup>10</sup> our products, says PM

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SUBANG: Malaysians must shed their *tidak apa* attitude and adopt a culture to expect the best quality in all their products as the country moves towards industrialisation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Speaking after witnessing the export launch of the first two Malaysian-made *Aerotiga* (SME MD3-160) aircraft to the United States, the Prime Minister said Malaysians could not afford to fail in precision if the country wanted to be industrialised.

"We are moving into a more sophisticated area, especially in aircraft (industry). We have to check and recheck so that our product is up to the mark," he added.

The first two locally-made aircraft would be sent to Tallahassee. The two-seater all-metal aircraft - ideally suited for training, leisure and aerobatic flying - were built by SME-Aviation Sdn Bhd.

The shipment would be followed by further aircraft deliveries to the United States next year. The United States is the biggest market for this category of aircraft and is expected to purchase more than 100 *Aerotiga* over the next three years.

The Malaysian Defence Ministry has ordered 20 *Aerotiga* for use by the RMAF. The first 10 have been delivered and the rest next year.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians must be precise and accurate and maintain a very high standard in their pursuits if the country wanted to produce products which were competitive.

"For example, I have discussed at the Cabinet meeting that a number of Malaysians owned mega yachts but the crews are almost invariably Europeans.

"The reason is that Malaysians and Asians, except for the Japanese I think, do not know how to maintain

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## 'We lack culture of getting it perfect'

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yachts," he said, adding that Europeans were very careful about the maintenance and operation of yachts.

"It is the result of a European culture where things should be clean and precise and maintained 100%. We don't have that culture," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he had requested the Defence Ministry to instil such standards in the navy.

"That is the kind of thing we need to instil among our people, more so in the aircraft (industry) where everything must be perfect. You cannot say *tak apalah, cincai-cincai bolehlah*.

To a question, Dr Mahathir said

there was no question of lack in skills as Malaysians were capable of acquiring the know-how.

However, he noted that the culture of expecting the best quality was simply not there.

He said such lackadaisical attitude was not inborn and that "it is just that we (Malaysians) behave like that."