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BUDGET-REACTION

FMM: 1999 BUDGET WILL SPUR GROWTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) said the 1999 Budget and its accompanying strategies are necessary in fine-tuning the various measures and programmes introduced by the government over the past months.

Its president, Datuk Paul Low said at a post-budget press conference today that the strategies unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would spur economic recovery although there were few incentives for the manufacturing sector.

He also welcomed the proposal for the establishment of Malaysian-owned international trading companies, aimed at encouraging active participation of Malaysian trading companies in the international market.

He said FMM believed that manufacturers, particularly the small and medium industries, would benefit from the move.

Low also said that the development international trading companies would further accelerate the country's involvement in the marketing and distribution activities.

FMM also welcomed the proposed removal of excise duties on a number of electrical items, which it believed would encourage greater consumption of locally manufactured products. -- BERNAMA

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