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Mahathir-Navy

INSTIL MAINTANENCE CULTURE IN NAVY, DR M ORDERS MINISTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to get the navy to instil a culture that keeps vessels "ship shape" and clean all the time.

The prime minister said the Europeans practised the culture but Malaysians lacked such attitude.

"I have directed the Defence Ministry to get the navy to instil that kind of attitude so that everything should be spick and span.

"Every brass parts must be polished and polished again and again, every stainless parts must be cleaned and every part of the ship must be maintained 100 per cent as new," he told reporters after launching the maiden delivery of the Malaysia-made SME MD3-160, ordered by the United States.

Dr Mahathir said he issued the directive to Syed Hamid during a cabinet meeting.

He spoke of how a number of Malaysians who owned yachts had to engage European crew because they (the owners) did not know how to maintain the yachts properly.

Although it was more costly to hire Europeans, they were worth the money because they knew how to mantain the yachts, he said.

The prime minister said the difference between the Europeans and Malaysians was that European culture stressed that everything must be clean, precise and be maintained 100 per cent up to the required standard.

"We dont have that culture," he said, adding that was why he had directed the Defence Ministry to get the navy to instill that kind of attitide.

Dr Mahathir said that in aircraft manufacturing, everything must be perfect and one cannot adopr the attitude of "ching chai, ching chai, bolehlah" because if the aircraft goes down due to mechnical fault "your funeral could also be ching chai."

--BERNAMA

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