

08 NOV 1998

MAHATHIR TO OPEN FURNITURE DESIGN CENTRE THIS MONTH

SITIAWAN, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- The furniture design centre, due to be inaugurated this month, will promote Malaysian designs internationally and boost furniture exports, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik said today.

With the centre, he said, foreign buyers of Malaysian designs need not wait for the annual Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) in March to compare products and make orders.

The RM2.2-million centre located at Menara PGRM in Cheras in Kuala Lumpur is scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 20.

The centre, managed by the Malaysian Timber Council, would later organise furniture design courses to train future designers for the industry, he told reporters at a school function at Ayer Tawar near here.

Lim said Malaysian designers will showcase their design concepts and set their own price for the perusal of foreign importers at the centre.

Malaysia exported RM3 billion worth of furniture products last year, a 100-fold increase over the RM30 million worth wood-based products exported in 1987.

-- BERNAMA

LAT gm