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Malaysian Furniture Design Centre set to boost exports

AYER TAWAR, Sun. - The Malaysian Furniture Design Centre, a centre to showcase local-made furniture meant for export, will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 20.

Situated at the Menara PGRM in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, the MFDC is the brainchild of Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, who first proposed the idea in 1996.

The RM2.2 million centre is supported by the Malaysian Timber Council and set up in collaboration with the Malaysian Furniture Industry Council. It will be managed by Semangat Kurnia Sdn Bhd.

Speaking to reporters after launching an Intelligent Quotient (IQ) competition among Chinese primary schools in the Manjung district today, Dr Lim said the centre, which is the first of its kind in the region, was aimed at promoting and enhancing the country's furniture industry.

He said as Malaysia's export of local furniture was encouraging, it was timely that the centre be opened now.

According to recent MTC statistics, Malaysia has emerged as one of the world's leading furniture exporters with exports amounting to about RM3 billion in 1997, a hundredfold increase from RM30 million in 1987.

With the opening of the centre, Dr Lim said the price of local furniture could be competitively quoted in the international market.

He said in the past, potential foreign buyers used to come here once a year to view Malaysian-made furniture, but now, they could come all year round.

With a display area of 2,700 square metres, the MFDC will house the largest collection of Malaysian export furniture on a permanent basis.

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