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Malaysian goods can also be best: PM

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MALAYSIANS should get acquainted with their country's own capacity in producing goods of world standards, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We should make use of the opportunity and facilities to get acquainted with our own capacity (in producing goods) so as not to feel in any way that we are not getting the best when we buy Malaysian goods," he said.

"This is not any kind of economic nationalism. It is simply because we cannot afford to buy imported goods (due to the depreciation of ringgit)," he said when launching the "Love Malaysia, Buy Malaysia Products" campaign and exhibition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The three-month campaign at the Malaysian International Design Export Centre (IDEC) in Kuala Lumpur, is organised by Country Heights in conjunction with its 9th Family Day celebration.

Reiterating that the depreciation of the ringgit was not the doing of Malaysians, Dr Mahathir urged local consumers to buy more Made-in-Malaysia goods as they are not too affected by the currency problem.

"Most of the local manufacturers are not too affected by the depreciation in the value of our currency, except those which are using some imported components in their production.

"In the meantime, local manufacturers should also produce quality products of world standard and export them as much as possible to gain foreign currencies for the country," he added.

Congratulating Country Heights for its effort to promote Malaysian goods through its campaign and exhibition, Dr Mahathir also urged Malaysian manufacturers and exporters to use the facility to promote their products.

"I hope the manufacturers will take the opportunity to exhibit their products at this exhibition as I know they will not lose anything ... the exhibition facilities are free and the products will be on sale to Malaysians and foreigners alike.

The Prime Minister said the idea of having such a centre as the IDEC where Malaysian goods could be exhibited should be taken full advantage of by the producers and manufacturers.

Noting that the Government has formulated a plan to overcome the current economic woes, Dr Mahathir reiterated the need for all Malaysians to cooperate with the Government to make it (the plan) a success, including buying more locally-made goods.

"In that way, you will be helping the country to recover quickly and when the country recovers, we will benefit.

If all Malaysians cooperate fully, we can overcome all the difficulties that we are facing today," he added.

Some 50 local companies are exhibiting their products at the exhibition.

The products on display include furniture, paint, carpet, electrical appliances, cars and accessories.

At the function, Dr Mahathir also launched the IDEC logo.

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