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PM impressed with silverware firm

KUALA KANGSAR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today praised a silverware company, Mariwasa Kraftangan Sdn Bhd, for adopting a high standard in manufacturing its products.

Dr Mahathir, who visited the company's plant here this afternoon, said he initially thought that the company only produced simple items without realising its full capability.

He said he was also impressed by the superior skills of its workers.

"We should fully utilise the company's capability for our own benefit and should not buy from other countries to reduce the outflow of funds and at the same time develop our own industry," he said at a Press conference.

The company, established in 1975, began operations as a manufacturer of medals and award decorations and soon dominated the domestic market with the Government as its principal client.

In 1994, public-listed Boustead Holdings became its prime shareholder by acquiring a major share in the company.

Mariwasa has captured 80 per cent of the domestic market for award decorations and medals.

Such items contributed to 85 per cent of the company's earnings from the overseas market.

Mariwasa's clientele to date includes the King and Sultans and members of the royal families in Malaysia, the Middle-East, Europe and the Maldives.

It designed the Queen's Baton for the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Dr Mahathir added that he had recommended a new technology acquired from Japan to be introduced by the company.

He said the company could create supporting industries by providing assistance and expertise to them.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and the company's managing director, Datuk Megat Mohd Abdul Wahab Megat Abu Bakar.

(END)