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PM: Export only quality goods

Sarban Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Malaysian manufacturers must ensure their products are of world standard before they decide to export, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said if they exported sub-standard goods, it would tarnish the country's reputation.

"I would like to advise everyone not to try to market inferior goods as this will give Malaysia a bad reputation.

"Please do remember that when you produce anything, it must be of quality or at the very least, it must conform to the description of your goods," he said.

He said producers must improve on their goods fully before they begin to export, adding that they should be as exactly as described in their brochures.

In their haste to export, manufacturers must never compromise on quality.

He said this at the opening of the Second Expo Cintai Malaysia 1999 at the Mines Exhibition Centre in Seri Kembangan.

Three hundred and forty companies, occupying 614 booths, are exhibiting their locally-made products at the expo which will be held until Aug 22.

Dr Mahathir said the Government's policy of buying goods from its trading partners, especially the developing countries, still remained.

"Although we want Malaysians to buy Malaysian-made goods, it does not mean we want to stop buying from other countries. We would want to buy a lot of things from other developing countries because we feel that we can help them balance their trade," he said.

"It is not for us to just export and not buy things from other people. We feel if we buy goods from our trading partners, they will be in a better position to buy our goods," he said.

Dr Mahathir said by helping others to prosper, Malaysia too would prosper.

He said when Malaysia was facing an economic downturn, it was unable to be of much help to its trading partners, in particular the developing countries, and neighbours.

He said that this was because Malaysia had decided to conserve its strength (financial capacity) to help its economy recover.

He said there was a need to promote Malaysian-made goods as Malaysians by large did not have faith in their products.

For a long time, Malaysians only bought imported goods from developed countries as they assumed their own goods were not as good as imported ones.

"It is sometimes very difficult for the Government to persuade the consumers to buy Made-in-Malaysia goods.

"We want Malaysians to know that their products are of world quality and could be marketed worldwide," he said.

Dr Mahathir said many Malaysians shopping abroad must have seen branded goods bearing Made-in-Malaysia labels.

"How many times have we bought goods (abroad) only to find they were actually made in Malaysia. Others (foreigners) are prepared to accept our goods, we must be prepared to do so too," he said.

The expo has been acknowledged as the largest ever held in the country by the Malaysia Book of Records.

The event is organised by the Kuala Lumpur/Selangor Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KLSCCCI) in collaboration with the Malaysia International Exhibition and Showroom.

The fair aims to encourage Malaysians to buy local products, to promote the domestic market and to explore the export market.

The organisers also invited about 500 delegates from China and Asean countries, ambassadors and high commissioners to the event.

Among the items and services exhibited are information technology, facilities in financial institutions, properties, hotels, food and beverages, automotive and household products.

KLSCCCI president Datuk Lim Guan Teik said the organisers were convinced that local products could compete effectively if promoted well.

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