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PM: It's time for private sector to play lead role

THE time has come for the private sector and entrepreneurs to take over the Government's role in leading the aerospace industry, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister added that many opportunities were available with government assistance.

He said to ensure that Malaysia became a regional and international aerospace player, the Government had consolidated the key players of the industry after taking the lead in the developing phase.

"I am happy to note that in such a short period of slightly over two years, we have made significant progress," he said when launching the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Association in Langkawi.

The Government, he said, had identified the aerospace industry as a critical industrial base for the future.

The aerospace industry was technology-intensive and suitable for the nation with fast-growing skilled labour, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the local aerospace manufacturing sector had achieved international recognition following orders of more than US\$40 million (RM152 million).

The international customer base had also expanded and covered the entire spectrum including military and commercial aircraft, as well as space and satellite equipment.

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