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Customs-Smart

KEDAH CUSTOMS DEPT IN SMART PARTNERSHIP WITH MANUFACTURERS

LANGKAWI, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- The Kedah Royal Customs and Excise Department today signed a "smart partnership" memorandum of understanding (MoU) with five manufacturers in the state.

The five companies are Intel Malaysia, Modenas, Silterra Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Sony Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd and LD Technologies Sdn Bhd which are based in the Kulim Hi-Tec Park and Sungai Petani.

The department was represented by its Acting Director Ismail Ibrahim while the managing directors and top executives of the five companies signed on behalf of their respective organisations.

Royal Customs and Excise Department Director-General Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib said the smart partnership was ideal for the department's role towards making Malaysia a developed country in the new millennium.

Speaking to Bernama after the function, he said under the MoU the Kedah Customs will train the firms' staff on the legal procedures and regulations on the classification of goods according to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) convention.

In return, the department officers will be trained in information technology (IT) by companies which had expertise in this field, he said.

Abdul Halil believed similar MoU would be signed in other states like Selangor, Penang, Perak and Johor soon.

In another development, he said the department projected to collect RM24 billion in revenues next year despite the RM19 billion as projected in the 2001 Budget.

Abdul Halil also said the government, on the principle, had agreed to the proposed change in customs officers and personnel attire.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself and the Minister (Finance) have agreed when I submitted a proposal on it recently," he said.

He said the department had set up a committee to decide on the form and colour of the new customs uniform.

Last August, the Peninsula Customs Officers Union secretary-general Abdul Rahman Manan called for a change in the customs personnel attire in order to differentiate it from those worn by workers in other sectors.

-- BERNAMA

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