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MAHATHIR-STANDARDS

MEET PRODUCTION STANDARDS CONSTANTLY, DR MAHATHIR TELLS MANUFACTURERS

SHAH ALAM, July 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised local manufacturers to adopt a new culture of producing goods to a certain standard constantly.

"There is a need for us to adopt a new culture of wanting to produce everything to a certain standard (and) the best of quality, constantly," he said in his keynote address during an official visit to SIRIM Bhd here today.

Dr Mahathir said that by doing so, manufacturers would be able to retain customers, who would regard them as reliable suppliers.

"Even if the prices are slightly higher, your customers will come back to you. To them, it is value for money," he added.

The Prime Minister also called on SIRIM to invent machineries to help boost the production of the local handicraft industry.

"Please see how much we can automate. Please look into this so that we can meet the demand," he said, citing mat weaving as one activity that requires mechanisation.

So far, SIRIM had developed an automatic loom and a computerised batik painting.

The automatic loom project was a joint-venture with Pahang State Development Corporation while the integrated computerised batik painting project was undertaken together Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation.

During a media conference later, the Prime Minister said he was still not satisfied the level of technology in manufacturing industry in the country.

However, he commended SIRIM for making very good progress in many areas so far.

He said SIRIM has achieved commendable results in contract research and the agency's products were gaining acceptance among the industries.

Meanwhile, SIRIM chairman Datuk Ir. Dr Ahmad Zaidee Laidin said the agency has so far developed 2,902 standards.

He said with the appointment of 12 standard development organisations, Malaysia was in a better prepared to face challenges in meeting its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2020. -- BERNAMA

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