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OPP3-RAFIDAH

MITI TO SET UP COUNCIL TO ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS IN MANUFACTURING  
SECTOR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of International Trade and Industry plans to set up a national-level council to enhance competitiveness in the Malaysian manufacturing sector.

The proposed council will have representation from both the public and private sector to provide the necessary input that will form the basis for strategy formulation to enhance national competitiveness, said its minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

There are some existing strategies that the government would be taking but fine-tuning would be required for them, she said.

"We hope this council will be a prime-mover to provide the input to the government and private sector," she told reporters after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tabled the country's third Outline Perspective Plan or OPP3 at the Dewan Rakyat today.

Rafidah said national competitiveness was the responsibility of both the government and private sector.

She said the government on its part would be sensitive to the demands of the marketplace and "polish" its rules while allowing the private sector to reinvent itself.

On the creation of more Malaysian multinational corporations (MNCs), Rafidah said the programme has been revived and progressing after its temporary setback due to the recent recession.

Some of the potential MNCs had to restructure even in their domestic operations but they are now picking up while some have recovered and consolidating themselves, she said.

"Efforts have also been undertaken to guide them where they can invest abroad," she added. -- BERNAMA

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