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PM: Malaysians capable of producing aircraft

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Malaysians will one day be able to produce sophisticated aircraft using modern technologies, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

In expressing his hope and confidence, Dr Mahathir said it was not a hard or an impossible task and could be achieved step by step, provided that there was willingness and also commitment by Malaysians themselves.

"It is not impossible. We Malaysians can do it. And one day, we might even be able to produce modern aircraft using rockets.

"When we began our car-making industry some 15 years ago, people did not have confidence in us and looked down on Malaysians.

"But today, we have established ourselves and this is an achievement for us to be proud of."

He said this in his speech before launching the Asean Voyage of Friendship Expedition held in conjunction with 21st Kuala Lumpur Sea Games next month.

The event was held at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Sungai Besi.

Dr Mahathir said that aviation science had made much progress and that Malaysians should adopt the new technologies so that they would not be left out in the rapid development.

"Today, we have Airbus, Boeing 747, Concorde and other modern aircraft but we must remember that during the initial period, things were very different. All the progress which we are enjoying today was only achieved over the time."

He said it was important for Malaysians to have confidence in themselves and believe that one day they would eventually achieve what they wanted.

"We can start on a small basis initially and later on progress to a larger scale. What is important is the spirit, interest and determination to do it."

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