

21 MAY 2001
DPMM-Convention
PM TO OPEN SMI FORUM IN KB

KOTA BAHARU, May 21 (Bernama) -- Some 400 local and "non-local" entrepreneurs are expected to take part in the four-day Small and Medium Scale Industry (SMI) convention starting here this Friday.

The president of Dewan Perniagaan Melayu Malaysia (DPMM, the Malaysian Malay Chamber of Commerce) in Kelantan, Nik Abdul Rahman Nik Taib said the DPMM-sponsored convention will be declared open by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with his two-day visit to Kelantan this weekend.

In a release here today, DPMM said the theme of the convention will be "Preparing for Global Trade with the Advent of AFTA 2003".

Nik Abdul Rahman said that, along with the convention, a trade exposition will be held, combined with visits to the production premises and plants of SMI owners and operators in Kelantan.

He said the aim of the convention is to make sure that SMI owners and operators are well informed on the scope and purpose of the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreement which comes into force in 2003.

"The entrepreneurs must fully understand what AFTA signifies and how they can respond to it," he said.

According to Nik Abdul Rahman, the organisers hoped that, through the convention, a Bumiputera SMI community would emerge with full understanding of what global trade and export orientation involves, especially in the context of information technology (IT) advances.

He added that several successful conglomerates of Kelantan origin would present working papers to share with participants their experiences and insights on the changing situation. -- BERNAMA

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