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SMI association lauds Chang's appointment

KLANG, Sat. - The Small and Medium Industries Association today welcomed the appointment of Matthias Chang Wen Chieh as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's political secretary.

Association president Looi Teong Chye said the association had long hoped for a Chinese to be appointed as one of the Prime Minister's political secretaries to deal with Chinese matters.

"We expect Chang to foster better relationship among the races in Malaysia. A good relationship among the races is vital to achieve Vision 2020 and to build a strong nation," he said at a Press conference here today.

Looi said the choice of a lawyer for the position was apt because the candidate must be objective, rational and not influenced by emotions pertaining to issues.

He said with the appointment there would be a new understanding among the various races in the country which would in turn create a new Malaysia.

On the performance of SMIs in the country, he said despite the slowdown in the United States' economy, their members were not affected much.

"We have also advised members, especially the 30 per cent who are involved in export businesses, to look at non-traditional countries.

"We have to break new grounds. We cannot rely on just the same countries like the US. When faced with situations like this (economic slowdown in the US) we are caught," he said, adding that the pegging of the ringgit to the US dollar had also helped the SMIs to survive.

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