

Develop music industry: PM

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There is still much more to be done to develop the music industry in Malaysia, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Many aspects of the music industry can be promoted in Malaysia, including the manufacture of musical instruments, the distribution of such products, music education, event management and the management of musical talent.

"If we don't do this, others will. For example, the management of music and other performing talent is being undertaken by international management companies with worldwide connections."

Mahathir said this when opening the ExpoMuzik 2001 at the Mid-Valley Megamall here today which incorporates the Festival of Music Kuala Lumpur 2001.

Also present was his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali who is the patron of the festival and ExpoMuzik organising committee chairman Lim Mayli.

Mahathir also stressed that even if the country has the best concert halls and the best facilities for promoting performing arts, it is meaningless if there is no local talent of world class standard to perform in them.

"As it is often said, genuine talent is something

we cannot buy. We only need to search for it within ourselves.

"The contributions of these talent, still yet undiscovered, is vital towards the development of a viable and sustainable

entertainment industry in the country."

With the proper training of local talent to international standards, he said, we would be able to host genuinely Malaysian world class cultural events

to attractive music lovers and tourists from abroad.

He also said such musical talent may make significant contributions in the supporting industries, especially for the multimedia sector.