

PM: M'sia should emulate Sweden

STAR 25 SEP 2003

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STOCKHOLM: Malaysia should emulate Sweden, which has produced world-class products such as cars and telecommunications despite being a small country, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said Sweden had quality production and competed effectively in the world market because of its commitment to high standards.

"Sweden has a population of only eight million people but enjoys a high standard of living," he said at the end of his three-day visit here yesterday.

He cited Swedish aircraft maker Saab, which not only manufactures cars but makes jet fighters while Volvo remained one of the world's biggest car makers.

"Their philosophy is that they accept

the fact that they are a small country but must compete at world level," he said, adding that Malaysia must emulate this attitude.

Dr Mahathir, who visited Karolinska Institutet on Monday, said Swedish scientists, who have won Nobel prizes, had made much progress in research in fields such as genomics and bioinformatics.

He also met several Swedish chief executive officers, saying they expressed interest in investing in Malaysia in electronics and power generators.

On Tuesday, he also visited the Ericsson headquarters where he met its CEO Carl Hendric Svanberg and was briefed on the progress of the 3G (third generation) mobile phones which now puts emphasis on video images.

Asked whether telecommunication operators in Malaysia were ready to

commit funds to upgrade their services to 3G, he said the 3G system appeared sophisticated but was still facing many problems.

He said at least four American and European mobile phone operators, which had purchased 3G licences had lost huge sums of money.

Using 3G technology, subscribers in the US, Europe and Japan can watch the person they call and vice-versa while in Britain, subscribers get to watch videos of goals scored at football matches.

The Prime Minister said he was given a briefing on a system of integrated telecommunication system for high-rise buildings, pointing out that he was told by Ericsson that during the Sept 11 attacks in New York, the police could not communicate with the firemen trapped inside the building.