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Mahathir-Handicrafts

FURTHER BOOST FOR 'ONE VILLAGE, ONE INDUSTRY' CONCEPT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the 'One Village, One Industry' concept will be further boosted through the setting up of a small production centre in each village to help spur development in the rural area.

He said that the government was now experimenting in the setting up of small production centres in the rural areas to further promote the production of handicrafts and cottage industries in the villages.

"Favourable response and creation of jobs for the villagers who cannot or unwilling to leave their villages can already be seen," he said when launching the National Craft Day at the Kuala Lumpur Craft Centre here.

A four-day handicraft exposition is being held in conjunction with the event.

Dr Mahathir said that the government would support the cottage industries like handicraft-making carried out in a systematic small production centre managed on a commercial basis.

He said that handicrafts could be produced in a systematic manner in production centres where workplace discipline in terms of delegation of tasks and utilisation of machines was adopted.

"Training can also be provided to those interested in the field of factory management," he said.

Other work practices like rostering duties or paying fixed wages would also encourage faster production to ensure that market demand was met, he said.

"Certainly products made by machines cannot truly be called handicrafts...but in accomplishing certain tasks like cutting bamboo and preparing materials for weaving and batik painting that machines can do should not be done by hand," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that the community should be prepared to change their mindset and be competitive to achieve progress for themselves and the race without having to depend on financial assistance from the government.

He said that the people should keep abreast with development so that they would not be left behind.

"So many races and civilisation have disappeared from the surface of this earth, let us not be one of them," he said.

At the function, Dr Mahathir presented the National Craft Award to Zainab alias Ngah Mamat, 61, of Kuala Terengganu.

Zainab, who has been active in songket weaving for 45 years, received, among others, a commendation letter, RM30,000, a songket outfit, and payment of RM7,000 for medical treatment for five years.

-- BERNAMA

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