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Mahathir-Lima

GOVERNMENT SATISFIED WITH PERFORMANCE OF LIMA

LANGKAWI, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- The government is very satisfied with the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition's (Lima) performance, especially in terms of the growth of Malaysian companies which had participated in it, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Their businesses have grown very big in the past 12 years (the inaugural Lima was in 1991) whereby, before, they had no technology, now they have the technology," the prime minister told a news conference after the weekly cabinet meeting here.

The meeting is usually held at the new federal administrative centre in Putrajaya but this week's meeting was held at the Cabinet House in Gunung Raya here due to the on-going Lima 2003.

Dr Mahathir said that with the new technology, Malaysian companies could now manufacture products and even build a frigate warship in Malaysia.

The six-day Lima 2003 was opened by the prime minister on Tuesday.

On a different note, Dr Mahathir said PAS was using the Islamic state issue to fish for votes and had no intention to do good for the people.

"Moreover, where's the need (for an Islamic state) when our country is already regarded by the whole world as not only an Islamic nation but a model for the Islamic countries," he said.

He said this when asked to comment on a statement by PAS vice-president Datuk Mustafa Ali in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) last week on the Islamic state issue, which differed from that by PAS president Datuk Abdul Hadi Awang.

Dr Mahathir said PAS was inconsistent in its stand regarding the Islamic state because it was not going to implement it but was only fishing for votes.

-- BERNAMA

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