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Dr M happy with Lima spin-offs over past 12 years

reports on "LIMA 2003" by Tony Emmanuel; Marina Emmanuel; Sharanjit PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed satisfaction with the progress charted by Lima exhibitions over the past 12 years.

In singling out the success achieved by Malaysians as a result of their participation in Lima, he said: "Their businesses have grown very, very big in the last 12 years.

"We had no technology before but now they have the technology and the ability to manufacture. Now they can even build a frigate or warship in Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir was speaking after chairing a Cabinet meeting at Gunung Raya in Langkawi.

Earlier, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Dr Mahathir had expressed satisfaction with the spin-offs caused by Lima in spawning the growth of local aerospace and maritime companies.

He singled out Airod, Composites Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) and Sapura as local success stories.

"These companies have succeeded in securing regional contracts and emerged as global suppliers."

In boosting the growth of the defence sector, Najib said the Malaysian Defence Industry Council was working towards making the country more self-reliant in meeting its defence needs.

"This will generate more employment opportunities in Malaysia, and help us save on foreign exchange," he added.