

**Local Shipbuilders Capable Of Building Large Ships - Tun Mahathir
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KUALA LANGAT, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed his confidence that local shipbuilders are capable of building large vessels, including war ships.

He said they should be given the opportunity to prove their worth as proven by NGV Tech which had so far built over 140 ships of various sizes.

"I am confident that NGV Tech is capable of building large vessels and warships as it is a sophisticated company entrusted in building two Royal Malaysian Navy training ships through a joint venture with a South Korean company," he told reporters after attending a hari raya open house hosted by NGV Tech here Sunday.

Accompanied by NGV Tech executive chairman Datuk Zulkifli Shariff and Chief of Navy Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Jaafar, Dr Mahathir witnessed the construction of the two training ships worth RM148 million each at a shipyard owned a NGV Tech in Kampung Sijangkang.

Built through a technology transfer programme with Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. Ltd., South Korea, NGV Tech expects both ships to be completed by the middle of next year.

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