

# Govt to provide more assistance to furniture industry

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KUALA LUMPUR (Nov 9): The Government, together with the relevant agencies, will provide assistance to boost the furniture industry further.

Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok said the industry contributed exports worth RM10.1 billion in 2017, and the value was targeted to reach RM12 billion by 2020.

"Recognising the significant contribution of the furniture industry to the nation's economy, the Government will give more emphasis on higher value-added downstream activities," she said in her speech during the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) appreciation dinner.

She also said that for the furniture industry to be successful, the players needed to adopt smart manufacturing to raise quality, cut production time and replace low-skilled jobs.

"Companies are encouraged to use new technology and automation as much as possible to improve productivity and raise exports," she added.

Meanwhile, MIFF Founder and Chairman Datuk Tan Chin Huat said the annual furniture fair had met its objective to become a platform for Malaysia's furniture exports.

"As a business-to-business export trade show, sales at MIFF account for 30 to 40 per cent of the value of Malaysia's annual furniture exports," he said.

This year's MIFF recorded sales of US\$984 million compared with US\$940 million in 2017.