

Regional way to woo the industrial investors

JOHORE BARU, Sun. — Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) has stressed the importance of the regional concept of promoting industrial investment.

He said that though every State was competing to attract industrial investment "we must not lose sight of the fact" that all States benefit from the establishment of industries in Malaysia.

He said this in a message to mark the southern region and Singapore

ALL STATES WILL STAND TO BENEFIT: MAHATHIR

investment seminar which will be held here for two days from Tuesday.

Citing examples, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the establishment of industries in Malacca and Pahang will promote the fuller use of Johore airport and sea port facilities.

Likewise, the establishment of projects in Johore, apart from providing employment for

people in neighbouring States, will also have a spill-over effect on the neighbouring States.

He said examples can be seen in the central region where the spill-over of the development of Kuala Lumpur has benefitted Negri Sembilan and likewise south Kedah has benefitted from the spill-over of development in Penang.

"This co-operation among competitors is a

good sign indicating the far-sighted attitude of the respective State governments and agencies involved," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the seminar was one of the many avenues the Government was pursuing in its drive towards industrial development.

These and similar efforts were important steps in the economic development of the country

and in particular Johore, Malacca and Pahang.

He congratulated Fida, the Johore Government and the State Economic Development Corporations of Johore, Malacca and Pahang on the initiative in organising the seminar.

This particular seminar in Johore was unique in that it also included Singapore.

The seminar which was thus a domestic-cum-international seminar called not only for increased Malaysian investment in the manufacturing sector but also increased foreign investment.

"I sincerely hope this seminar will give an opportunity to all investors in Singapore to include Malaysia in their short-term or long-term considerations," he said.

Assurance

"Investment opportunities are not all that Malaysia has to offer to domestic and foreign investors," he said.

Malaysia also offers sound political and monetary stability, rich natural resources, good infrastructure and above all a government geared towards and which welcomes investments.

"I give all potential investors the Government's assurance of co-operation and assistance in setting up their projects and also the assurance that Malaysia will continue to strive to maintain the favourable climate that it presently enjoys."

About 400 foreign and local investors are expected to take part in the seminar.

Johore SEDC executive director Datuk Haji Basir Ismail, who is also the co-chairman of the seminar, said 395 investors have registered for the seminar.

Nine working papers will be presented at the seminar by officers from Fida, the Trade and Industry Ministry, the Customs, immigration and other departments concerned with investment.