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MUHYIDDIN-PLAN  
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, SEPT 30 (BERNAMA) -- A MASTER PLAN THAT WILL FORM THE BASIS OF JOHOR'S OVERALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE NEXT 15 YEARS WILL BE LAUNCHED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HERE ON OCT 11, MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT AMONG THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS STRESSED IN THE PLAN WAS A BALANCED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS IN THE STATE, AIMED AT IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE.

THE PLAN, DRAFTED FOR THE 1990-2005 PERIOD AND BASED ON A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH (MIER), WOULD ALSO PLACE EMPHASIS ON MAKING JOHOR THE MOST INDUSTRIALISED STATE IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER PRESENTING CERTIFICATES TO 483 TRAINEE TEACHERS OF THE TEMENGGUNG IBRAHIM TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE HERE, TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN SAID THAT THE MIER STUDY FOUND THAT FROM THE INDUSTRIAL ASPECT, JOHOR COULD ATTAIN A LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT OVER THAT OF THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED BY THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS -- EARLIER THAN THE PERIOD SET BY THE PLAN.

+THIS MEANS THAT WE CAN REACH THE LEVEL OF STATE DEVELOPMENT MUCH EARLIER. MEANWHILE, THE SERVICE, CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SECTORS WILL BECOME THE MAIN SECTOR, IN LINE WITH THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE  
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HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE STUDY REVEALED THAT JOHOR WOULD EXPERIENCE A SHORTAGE OF 250,000 WORKERS DURING THE PLAN PERIOD.

TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN ALSO SAID THAT SEVERAL WORKING GROUPS FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL PLAN HAD BEEN FORMED.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO STUDY THE FUTURE TREND OF THE STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT A STUDY WAS REQUIRED TO BE CONDUCTED BECAUSE THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A BOARD WOULD INVOLVE ALLOCATION COSTS OF A NEW ORGANISATION. THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE STATE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT ALSO NEEDED TO BE REVIEWED BECAUSE AS A GOVERNMENT AGENCY IT WOULD GO AGAINST THE STRUCTURE PROPOSED FOR THE BOARD, HE ADDED.

THE MENTERI BESAR ALSO SAID THAT A RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO MODERNISE BY TURNING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR INTO A COMMERCIAL SECTOR, URBANISING THE RURAL AREAS AND ACTIVATING INDUSTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE STATE. -- BERNAMA  
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