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Mahathir-jobs

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BUTTERWORTH, July 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the increasing number of jobs in the manufacturing sector was proof that the government's industrial strategies were successful.

The Prime Minister said the jump in job opportunities forced the companies to compete to offer the best incentives to lure workers.

+The companies are forced to offer better wages to attract the workers and this means that workers do not have to resort to strikes for better pay, he told newsmen after opening the Sony Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd and Sony Mechatronic Products (M) Sdn Bhd plants in Seberang Prai, near here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said government was prepared to cooperate with the private sector to open training centres to enhance workers' skills to help overcome the short-age of skilled labour in the manufacturing field.

Many Japanese companies which opened plants in Malaysia were sending their workers to Japan for on-the-job training in the manufacturing line, he added. --more

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He said: +With such training, the performance of the workers is enhanced and they can produce more sophisticated products. It also shows that these companies have confidence in the capabilities of local workers. +

He added there was a bright potential for companies producing component parts for major industries and he expressed confidence that with more joint ventures with Japan or other countries, the people would have a better chance of being involved in this industry.

Asked to comment on DAP claims that the government was spending \$50 million on the Prai state by-election, he said the party had nothing better to do than to make unfounded allegations.

+The DAP has no work except to criticise others. If the Barisan Nasional has so much money, it would be better spent on other things instead of on winning one seat, + he added.

BN did spend money on development programmes for the people but it had never given money to them, he said in reference to the DAP slogan +Ambil Duit BN: Undi DAP+ (Take RN Money : Vote DAP). -- more

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He added that the DAP might be used to such practices as vote-buying which was why it believed the same of others. +Someone who is a crook will think that everyone else are also crooks like him. This is the DAP's problem, + he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also explained that proposed amendments to the Land Acquisition Act were made in the interest of the people because the country's population was growing.

He said the government could not take away land belonging to the people unless it was done fairly in accordance with the law.

He gave an assurance that there would be no irregularities in land acquisition. -- Bernama

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