

Government to ensure better distribution of hi-tech industries

# A fair deal for all States

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BANGI, Mon. -- The Government will ensure a fair distribution of high-technology industries — now located only in a few areas — to all the States., Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said in the present scenario, where there was a shortage of workers and sites for factories in some States, investors would be encouraged to build their plants in the east coast, Malacca, Kedah and other States where there was a dearth of high-technology industries.

He said currently high-technology industries which produced high value-added products were being concentrated in Penang, Selangor and Johor.

Speaking at the opening of Hitachi Electronic Products Sdn Bhd and Hitachi Air Conditioning Products Sdn Bhd at the Bangi Industrial area, he said:

"I hope in time there will be an even spread of high-technology in the country since many of the States have the capacity to host them.

"With the establishment of the high technology industrial estate in Kulim, Kedah, the Government hopes sophisticated and state-of-the-art industries would be situated there to mark a new era for the nation's industrial sector."

Speaking later to newsmen, he said that several proposals had been received from foreign investors who were keen to invest in the Kulim high technology industrial estate.

He said that infrastructural and support facilities to cater for the industries would be provided there.

He added that the Government was willing to provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure that industrialisation involving high-technology industries began in all States.

Also present were Deputy Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Sujak Mahmud, Hitachi Ltd Japan chairman Katsushige Mita, Hitachi Electronic Products managing director Sadonori Watanabe, and Hitachi Air Conditioning Products managing director Hiroyuki Fukuyama.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said since unemployment was no longer a major problem, Malaysia did not need labour-intensive projects which usually produced low value-added products involving low technology.

"We are keen on capital-intensive industries producing high-value added products involving state-of the art processes suited to modern times.

"Malaysia has a bright future in the electrical and electronics sector which has been proven by the experiences of Hitachi, Matsushita, Motorola, Intel and other companies.

"They have shown the world that the local workforce can compete with workers in factories in Japan and the United States."

He congratulated the Hitachi Group for its commitment towards Malaysia in establishing 13 factories in the country.