

CNS9974

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CUT BUREAUCRATIC RED-TAPE TO DRAW INVESTMENT, SAYS MAHATHIR

(Embargo: For use after 2200 hrs today, Aug 2%)

Mahathir - Mida

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52 (V)

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called for slashing of bureaucratic red-tape to attract more investments to Malaysia.

He also said that conditions governing investments should be eased further to provide for automatic approval of projects which had met stipulated requirements.

+Politicians are responsible for the political atmosphere. But administrators at all levels must continually improve their service and efficiency, he said at the 25th anniversary dinner of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) here.

He said investors, both domestic and foreigners, looked for administrative efficiency and a conducive political 'atmosphere for the development of a free economic system.

To reduce workload and time-consuming reports, Dr Mahathir proposed the use of easy-to-fill forms and project presentations which followed a set format. -- more

♥22/08/20-41 MST

CNS9985

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Mahathir - Mida 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

He said the administrators should resort to any method which could contribute to efficiency, including extensive use of computers. In this connection, he suggested the design of computer software that could provide the necessary data.

Dr Mahathir said that a specific time frame, perhaps of a week, should be given for projects which could not be approved immediately.

In arriving at a decision on a project, he said there was no decision which was not imperfect.

Therefore, he said, the relevant committee of officers should not feel they had not been prudent unless the decision was clearly unsuitable because the important thing was to learn from past decisions.

He was confident the time would come when mistakes could be reduced although they could not be eliminated altogether. -- more

♥22/08/20-57 MST

CNS9987

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' Mahathir - Mida 3 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

+But not making a decision or a delayed decision was worse than a bad decision,+ he said,

On the role of Mida, Dr Mahathir said the level of investment in the manufacturing sector was proof of its performance in the promotion and coordination of industrial investment in the country.

He said Mida also provided feedback to enable the government formulate policies and fresh incentives to be better able to compete with other countries for foreign capital and technology.

Dr Mahathir attributed the success of Mida to the healthy pooling of various factors such as matured management and dedicated staff and an understanding of its objectives.

Nevertheless, he said, Mida should always follow market developments and orientate its approach to changes owing to the additional responsibility it had to shoulder in line with Vision 2020 of making the country a developed nation in 30 years; -- more

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Mahathir - Mida 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

For this, he said, there was a need to always evaluate and enhance staff: professionalism through training programmes to acquire skills because it was not enough just 'depending on good selection in the recruitment of fresh employees.

He said efforts toward; this were important because of the ever more complex challenges owing to the increase in the number of countries which switched from a centrally planned economy to entrepreneurship.

The prime minister said some countries were able to offer a skilled, cheap, hardworking and disciplined workforce while Malaysia faced a shortage of workers, a situation which would definitely cause an increase in cost.

+Unless we can draw up new strategies, Malaysia will no longer be attractive to investors,+ he said. -- Bernama