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STRONG PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CRITICAL IN GLOBALISATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said a strong public and private sector partnership in the current trend towards globalisation of business is not only necessary but also critical.

He said it was critical because globalisation was not only about doing business world-wide but also about decentralisation, greater autonomy in the off-shore units, backward and forward linkages between the different processes and business activities and re-investment in countries where the globalised companies operate.

"It is through the nurturing of partnership between the public and the private sectors at national level and international level and the cooperation between them that the process in globalisation can be fully exploited," he said when launching the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Technology Management-Private Sector Partnership (CPSP) and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), here today.

However, he said these partnership, in the context of CPSP and MIGHT, could only be effective if they operate as cooperative networks innovatively, allowing for flexibility, adaptability and mutual trust.

In Malaysia, he said its objective of making the country a fully developed nation by the year 2020 could only be achieved if industry play its part fully in a government-industry partnership. -- more

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While the government could provide the appropriate environment for growth and set general direction for business activities, he said it is the industry which must ensure that growth takes place.

"It is on this premises that we have vigorously promoted the Malaysia Incorporated concept and initiated programmes to put the concept to work," he said.

In this context, he said the government have established the Malaysian Business Council (MBC) to allow for a process of creative consultation and meaningful dialogue among policy-makers, civil servants, corporate leaders and politicians.

The MBC, he said, addresses current and emerging domestic and international issues impinging on Malaysian development in order to generate consensus on national economic directions and strategies and to promote productive cooperation between the public and private sectors.

On the formation of the CPSP, Dr Mahathir said the partnership could take advantage of the strategic geographic positions of Commonwealth countries on all continents and their varying levels of sophistication to promote business through the transfer of the best practices in technology management. -- more

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In this context, Dr Mahathir urged Malaysian industrialists to support and join the CPSP to follow the example of SAPURA and YTL Corporation as CPSP could also help to strengthen their resources mutually.

As for MIGHT, Dr Mahathir said it must work towards strengthening the country's current comparative advantage so as to sustain and even enhance Malaysia's competitiveness.

This, he said, could be done through technology-based businesses that were developed locally, or, from foreign-sourced technologies, or, those originating from strategic alliances.

MIGHT, he said, must involve the participation of as many and as wide a spectrum of Malaysian companies for multi-perspective views that would enable actions at both micro and macro levels.

"Larger membership will increase the possibilities and opportunities for new businesses through strategic alliances in the emerging mode known as virtual corporation," he said. -- more

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In Malaysia, he said, MIGHT would have the opportunity to foster and trigger the process of virtual corporation by cooperatively strengthening needed expertise in companies.

"I hope MIGHT will also work closely with the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Technology Management (CCGTM) and the CPSP for collaborative action in prospecting for technology and in building an agenda of action for industrial competitiveness for Malaysia," he said.

On the CCGTM itself, which was initiated by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) meeting here in 1989, Dr Mahathir said it must play its role in promoting the new process of prospecting technology for national competitive advantage.

This year, he said the CCGTM may need to focus on the new qualitative change for the group and to establish a new formula for managing and resourcing CPSP.

"This may involve a shift from the traditional multi-lateral funding towards a cooperative resourcing from government organisations, companies, CCGTM members and other friends," he said.

Towards this end, he said the CCGTM's own cooperative network organisation may need to look into a more effective form of management while still maintaining the traditional links.

He said by October this year, the CCGTM may be able to take advantage of the CHOGM in Cyprus where they may formulate a complete forward strategy for the next five years based on the new CPSP. -- Bernama