

E

ECONEWS

JOINT VENTURE WILL HELP IN TRANSFER OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY, SAYS PM

bm

33  
SHAH ALAM, May 19 (Bernama) -- Local companies must create +contacts+ with international companies through joint venture or technical cooperation to enable them acquire latest high technology, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr (Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said' foreign companies through this joint venture should make efforts to transfer their technologies immediately to local workers.

Through this step, local workers would be able to be independent in their respective fields, he said when officiating the commencement Of construction work of the Proton casting plant here.

He said joint venture companies from abroad should strive for profits based on efficiency and viability and not to depend on Government's protection.

+If the Government has to give tax exemption, it is a loss to the country though the joint venture company makes profits,+ he said.

Meanwhile. local partners must learn and enhance their own technology because foreign partners would not wholly tranfer the technology they have created, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the national car project managed by Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton) had actually met that target.

Among others, he said the local component development programme launched by Proton had successfully resulted with positive impacts.

He said it was apt for Proton to enhance its involvement in upstream industry and activities. to a level as a car manufacturer which is capable to be independent and in facing competition internationally.

The casting plant, located on a 9.4-ha site at the Glenmarie Hicom Industrial Park here, cost a total RM260 million.

The plant, which produces cylinder blocks and brake discs among others, is scheduled to begin production in the middle of next year. -- Bernama

E