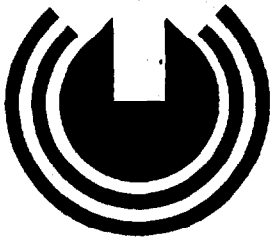


Kuching has vital role in boosting growth

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Reports by
Calvin Goh,
Juhaidi Yean
Abdullah,
Tan Chin Slang,
and
Magdelene Rogers



KUCHING, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today political stability and racial harmony in Sarawak will make Kuching a main gateway for large capital investments within and outside the country.

Political stability and the State Government's policy of development politics had created a conducive environment for investors and giant business corporations to invest in the State, the Prime Minister added.

He was speaking at the opening of the RM80 million Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara building on Bukit Siol at Petra Jaya here and the first consultative committee meeting of municipal councils for this year.

Also present were Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, several Federal Cabinet Ministers and the Datuk Bandar of Kuching Utara, Dr Yusoff Hanifah.

Dr Mahathir was happy to learn that the new industrial area at Sejingkat, located within the city, had many industrial plants owned by local and foreign investors.

He said he had learnt that several foreign manufacturers and corporate figures had signed agreements with Sarawak businessmen to build factories on a joint venture basis.

"This type of co-operation can help us in terms of transfer of technology from the developed countries."

This was also in line with efforts towards orderly and rapid industrial development in Sarawak, Dr Mahathir added.

"Therefore, the city of Kuching plays an important role as a catalyst towards this economic expansion and growth. I am sure that Sarawak will become a front-runner in achieving this vision."

All these also reflected a bright future for Sarawak and its people would enjoy rapid economic growth.

Dr Mahathir said the people of Sarawak should be grateful to have dynamic local leaders at federal and State levels whose vision could be accepted by all, including by those outside the State.

Everyone would benefit when a State was administered sincerely by taking into account both its interest and that of the country and maintaining a close relationship with the Federal Government.

However, the people of the State would suffer if its administration concentrated solely on its own interest without considering the interest of the nation.

On the DBKU building, Dr Mahathir said it was a landmark that would promote the growth of Kuching city.

He also said that the success of development projects in Kuching had gained international recognition for the city.

Taib said the construction of the DBKU building drew its inspiration from Dr Mahathir's Vision 2020.