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MALAYSIA PROTECT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has assured foreign investors of protection of their intellectual property rights in the country.

The foreign investors can bring their technical know-how to Malaysia secure in the knowledge that the rights will be protected, he said in his message in a special supplement on Malaysia's achievements in technology published in the April issue of the "Scientific American" magazine.

Malaysia would soon introduce the Industrial Design Act which would protect the intellectual property of both Malaysian and foreign investors, he said in the message entitled "Technological Competitiveness Towards 2020".

He also said that with excellent infrastructure, trainable human resources and a congenial business atmosphere, Malaysia offered an outstanding profit centre for high technology business.

Dr Mahathir said the country already had the Patent Act which encouraged Malaysians to be innovative and inventive. -- more

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The sustained high investment in education over many years in Malaysia was paying off, where a vast pool of well-educated men and women was available, he said.

"Our workers are highly motivated, trainable and eager to learn while their positive work culture, ethics and attitudes have resulted in the industries being cost-effective and efficient.

"Even though wages have been rising steadily, increases in quality and productivity continue to position Malaysia as a very competitive location for many kinds of industries," he said.

Malaysia's political stability was also a positive attraction for investment in the country, he said.

"The coalition government which represents major communities in the country has been re-elected time after time, and with the people's continued support, the government has been able to mobilise the human and natural resources to build one of the fastest-growing economies in the modern world," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said that partnership was a key strategy employed in achieving growth.

Foreign and domestic partners had been brought together to accelerate industrialisation, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia continued to pursue an open philosophy, open to joint ventures and open to contributing Malaysia's share to the technologies brought in and transferred to the country.

"In the increasingly competitive global economy, it is imperative that we tap the best available resources, both human intelligence and material, irrespective of where they come from," he said. -- Bernama

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