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Mahathir-skills

IMPROVE ON SKILLS AND ACQUIRE MORE, MAHATHIR TELLS WORKERS

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PULAU PINANG, July 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised workers to improve on their skills and acquire more new skills in pace with the intensive development of the country.

He said workers must understand that only through upgrading of their skills can they step up productivity.

"Skilled workers can also help improve the competitiveness of the nation's export goods," he said when opening the Pulau Pinang Skills Development Centre (PSDC) here.

He also said that a worker with various skills would be able to easily make adjustments and changes brought about by new technologies.

Dr Mahathir said that owing to the importance of manpower development, the government had allocated 13 per cent of the development expenditure under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) for education and training. -- more

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▼19/07/20-16MST

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He said the government would continue to emphasise manpower development because trained and skilled workers were a vital asset for the country.

However, he added, training people and equipping them with skills was not solely the responsibility of the government but of everyone - employers, workers, trade unions, training institutions, schools and parents.

"It is sad to know that there are people who still assume that skills training and development are the responsibility of the government," he said.

On the setting up of the PSDC, he said it was a reflection of the awareness that the responsibility should be shared by the government and others.

The PSDC can definitely play an important role to help the country meet its needs in the area of trained and skilled workers, he said. -- more

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The PSDC was set up with the involvement of the government and private sector. It is established in an old building of the Penang Development Corporation (PDC) here.

The Pulau Pinang government provides an annual operating grant of RM120,000 and the federal government had allocated RM7 million for equipment, laboratory and workshop.

The private sector provides sources of training, identifies training needs and helps to set up facilities. -- Bernama

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▼19/07/20-37MST