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Mahathir-competition

COMPETITION VITAL IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, SAYS PM

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ALOR SETAR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today healthy competition is vital in the telecommunications industry in the country so that its success is more meaningful.

"Healthy competition does not mean competition without limits. An industry comprising small companies will not promote development required in this era of conglomerates," he said at the laying of the foundation stone of the proposed Alor Setar Tower, a 165.5m telecommunications structure of Telekom Malaysia Berhad, here.

He said that the relevant authorities should focus the industry towards a competitive environment or climate if they want the country to progress and be on par with leading industrial nations.

Dr Mahathir said that while competition could improve quality and technology of the industry, the competitors could only venture into such competition if they had adequate funds and human resources.

"A competitive environment is not meant for parties to eliminate or be hostile to each other resulting in their human and financial resources becoming weak.

"Competition will only be of benefit if it promotes efficiency and high quality and prices that are reasonable," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-competition 2 Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir said that competition was also an effort to facilitate transaction and determine direction or specialisation which would eventually overcome problems.

"In other words, it is not impossible to attain zero problem to accomplish perfection," he said.

He said that this could not possibly be achieved successfully without total involvement. As such, he said, every company should be committed towards attaining excellent output and be superior than their rivals.

Dr Mahathir also said that development did not merely mean a country with rapid economic progress as such development should be comprehensive.

He said: "Development based on stability and which is able to improve the standard of living of the people is a vital social objective.

"This is the basis of the nation's vision that should be achieved by the year 2020." -- more

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Mahathir-competition 3 Alor Setar

The Prime Minister also said that basic facilities in the rural areas should also be given more serious attention to ensure that the people there were not neglected.

He said that in line with progress in the telecommunications technology, facilities should be provided in the rural areas so that the people could enjoy the same benefits as the urban residents.

Dr Mahathir said that all parties should understand policies of the government which wanted to ensure equal distribution to the people, both in the urban and rural areas.

"All fortunes and benefits should be enjoyed by all levels of society.

"Although supply of services to the urban areas are more profitable, this does not mean that the rural areas should be ignored," he said. --
more

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Mahathir-competition 4 (last) Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir also said that the National Telecommunications Policy was aimed at providing better service to the people besides attracting more investment in the country.

He said that the policy was also formulated to maintain optimum utilisation of the local technology besides ensuring that the local technology was on par with those in countries which were more advanced in the field of telecommunications.

Dr Mahathir said that the country's telecommunications sector should keep abreast of development if the objective of becoming a developed nation were to be achieved.

He said that the development of telecommunications network would enhance the sector's role as a nerve of national development. It was essential for the country to develop further and progress in line with developments in other fields, he added.

At the function, the Prime Minister placed the text of his speech in a time capsule which was buried at the site of the proposed RM40 million project. Other items in the time capsule are the architectural plan of the tower, a book on the history of Alor Setar, a compilation of developments of the country's telecommunications industry and photographs taken at the function.

Present at the function were Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Telekom Malaysia Executive Chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Rashdan Baba. -- Bernama

MFJ RM

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