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Mahathir-land

EXPEDITE APPROVAL OF INDUSTRIAL LAND, SAYS PM

KANGAR, April 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today directed state governments to expedite the approval of industrial land.

He said that some state governments take too much time, sometimes up to two years, to process applications for such land.

"I don't know why it takes two years but it's true that some of them do take up to two years," he said at the ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the EnergoMAL Sdn Bhd plant at the Kuala Perlis industrial zone near here. EnergoMAL is a joint-venture company between a firm from Bosnia-Herzegovina and a local firm.

Energoinvest d.d.Sarajevo holds a 30 per cent equity in the joint-venture company while Revolutionary Technology Holdings Sdn Bhd has a 70 per cent stake in the company with investments totalling RM21 million.

Dr Mahathir said that delay in the approval of such land could hinder industrial growth and discourage investors from investing in Malaysia.

He said that if Perlis could expedite such matters, the other states could surely do the same.

"I was told by Menteri Besar (Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim) that the state government can approve industrial land in one day...within 24 hours. That's amazing," he said.

He was confident that if approval could be given speedily like in Perlis, the country would progress even further.

"This is because we act fast and do not create problems to obstruct the implementation of certain projects," he added.

On the Bosnian-Malaysian joint venture, Dr Mahathir said that it reflected the commitment of the Bosnian companies to share their experiences and expertise with Malaysian entrepreneurs.

"I welcomed this investment because it involved a Bosnian company. Although they are facing problems, they are still prepared to invest in Malaysia.

"I hope that Malaysian companies are also prepared to invest in Bosnia," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that he would, during his visit to Bosnia next week, express his gratitude to the Bosnian government because although busy in the country's reconstruction, some of its people were still prepared to come to Malaysia to invest.

He was confident that the project would succeed and enhance relationship between both countries.

On Perlis, Dr Mahathir felt that the state was more competitive in terms of manpower and goodwill among its people.

He said that this would create a very good investment climate and ensure the success of all the industries in the state.

He hoped that workers in Perlis would strive harder for the progress of the state which would attract more investments.

The plant is expected to be operational in March next year. It will produce SF6 circuit breakers and SF6 current transformers.

At the function, Dr Mahathir who was accompanied by Shahidan witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the construction of a plant by the Perlis State Economic Development Corporation and Revolutionary Technology. -- Bernama

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