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Mahathir-TPM

MAHATHIR CONFIDENT MALAYSIANS CAN MASTER TECHNOLOGICAL EDGE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that Malaysians can master the skills and technological edge to catch up with the rest of the industrialised world.

"I believe there is nothing that anyone cannot learn if he really apply himself to it," he said when opening the 280-hectare Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), near here, which will serve as a nerve centre for research development and innovation in high technology for the country.

The TPM which began in 1988 is only 20 minutes away south of the federal capital in the fast-growing Bukit Jalil area and strategically located within Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The Prime Minister said Malaysia had to leap-frog into the electronics edge and this would require people who are more intelligent and better trained than the first industrialised edge in Europe.

"I'm sure Malaysians can master the skill. It is a matter of applying yourself and if you keep trying and trying, you will, God willing, master the technology and knowledge that is required and that must be acquired by us, he said.

"Try we must and succeed we will," he said.

He said Malaysia was ready to buy technology which it does not have to acquire technology that was needed to make Malaysia an advance technological state.

Stressing on the need for new inventions and conducive working environment, Dr Mahathir said new factories must be very quiet, habitable with beautiful landscaping in keeping with modern standards.

He was also glad to note that almost all the space in the park had been taken up by industries and there might be a need to expand.

"I think this is a measure of the interest and capacity to take up new industries which require much more knowledge in the past," he said.

Reminding the audience that Vision 2020 was just 24 years' away, Dr Mahathir said he was sure that other Prime Ministers' who come after him would achieve the ambitious target of turning Malaysia into a developed country by that year.

He said Malaysia wanted to achieve developed status so that it would not be looked down and trodden upon.

"We want to be able to stand tall and have what they have," he added.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister toured the exhibition put up by tenants of the park and also visited the prototype centre in the park.

The first phase of the park costing RM237 million had been completed and focussed on information technology, software development, microelectronics, telecommunications and aerospace technology.

The RM226-million second phase which is expected to be ready in the year 2000 will promote research and development for biotechnology, medical and environmental technology, agriculture, health, energy and pollution control.

The park is fully equipped with the latest technology such as fibre optics, Internet communications and prototyping facilities for its tenants.

Companies that have set up their operations in the park include Mimos Bhd, Binariang Sdn Bhd and Iris Technologies (M) Sdn Bhd.

Also present at the ceremony were Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding and TPM chairman Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, who is also the Science Adviser to the Prime Minister. -- BERNAMA

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