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Mahathir-Research

MAHATHIR WANTS R&D INSTITUTIONS TO OVERCOME WEAKNESSES

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Research and Development (R&D) institutions in Malaysia should overcome weaknesses to enhance application of their findings.

He said there were still obvious weaknesses such as in product design and quality of the prototype.

"We must prove our capability before others support us. No one wants to give some much money for research to someone who hasn't produce result.

"So, we must convince (potential investors). We must be willing to face hardship first before enjoying the fruits of success," he said when asked on the lack of support to local R&D institutions by investors.

Dr Mahathir earlier officiated the University-Industry Technology Advancement Programme (UNITAP), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, near here.

He said local R&D institutions should strive to improve the quality of their prototype, using sophisticated equipment at their disposal.

"We have rapid and high speed prototyping machine at our disposal. We have spent so much money and we should make full use of it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said R&D institutions as well as universities should also be aggressive in marketing their findings to get financing especially after corporatisation.

He was also asked on claim by the Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (Fomca) that 55 per cent of houses built in Johor were owned by Singaporeans.

"I'm not aware of the real situation but for such claim we must make a proper study. Let's not do thing which we can mar out image," he said.

Asked whether Johor should impose higher levy on foreigners compared to other states, he said it could not be done because developers would have difficulty selling their houses.

Foreigners are allowed only to buy houses costing RM250,000 and above, subject to payment of a levy of RM100,000 for the purpose. -- BERNAMA.

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