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Mahathir-MS

MALAYSIA OFFERS INDIAN COMPANIES A BASE IN MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDDOR

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NEW DELHI, Dec 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight offered Indian companies a base in Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), which will have free movement of knowledge workers.

The MSC would allow free movement of knowledge workers so that they could move in and out as they liked, he said, when replying to a question on visa restrictions in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said: "We do not want to restrict knowledge workers. You can come out with a product or an idea," he told businessmen at his meeting with Confederation of Indian Industry, here.

He said: "We are moving into the information age, that is, knowledge-based economy and knowledge-based industry."

Asked whether Malaysia would allow investment by Indians in the software area, he said: "There is a great deal of interest in software. Some Malaysian companies have approached Indian companies in Bangalore."

If the expertise of Indian software companies was transferred to Malaysia then there would be wider market for their products, he said.

Asked about the reason for the Lotus deal, Dr Mahathir said, cars formed the base of engineering industries. Therefore, when they heard that the Lotus was up for sale, they bought it.

Lotus, he said, had tremendous engineering opportunities. Their engineering capabilities were such that even General Motors had asked them to design the engine.

Dr Mahathir said they hoped to be able to upgrade their engineering capabilities so as not only to produce world class cars, but also special cars.

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