

18 JUN 1996
Ramli-Robotics
MCRIA MOVES TO BERNAM VALLEY

TANJUNG MALIM, June 18 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Centre For Robotics and Industrial Automation (Mcria) will move to a four-hectare site near Bandar Behrang 2020 from its present premises at the Universiti Sains Malaysia branch campus at Bandar Seri Iskandar.

The centre, local pioneer in robotics and automation, is jointly owned by the Perak Foundation and Gopeng Berhad.

Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today Mcria's location in the Bernam Valley blended well with the development of the area as an automation and high technology centre following the setting up of Bandar Proton.

Speaking to reporters after launching the Bernam Industrial Park here, he said the centre would be of help not only to the factories and companies in the area but would also have a RM30 million teaching factory to train factory workers on robotics and automation.

The Bernam Industrial Park, covering 178.4 hectares near Bandar Proton, is jointly owned by the Perak Development Corporation, which holds 30 per cent equity and Lintaran Bayu Sdn Bhd which holds the rest.

They are developing the park in three phases over a five-year period at a cost of RM434 million.

Ramli said talks were underway with the Federal Government to make Mcria the national robotics and automation centre in view of its interest in having a similar centre.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed a wish for Malaysia to have a robotics and automation centre after touring such a centre in Japan last month, he said.

"The Perak Government is willing to turn over Mcria to the Federal Government for expansion into a national level centre and to enhance the use of robotics and automation in the country," he said.

Mcria, was set up by the state government in August last year at a cost of RM50 million.

On the development of the Bernam Valley, Ramli said the state government had todate approved the change over from agricultural to industrial use of an area covering 4,000 hectares of plantations.

The setting up of the second Proton plant in Tanjung Malim had been a boost to the development of the area where there were now seven large projects involving a total investment of RM5 billion, he said.

He said nearly all industrial lots in phase one of the Bernam Industrial Park and also in the first phase of Bandar Behrang 2020 Industrial Park had been sold out.

The Bernam Industrial Park over the next five years would have 104 units of twin factories, 92 units of terrace factories, 103 industrial lots, an industrial training centre, workers' hostel and an exhibition centre.

The park would also have 663 double-storey terrace houses, 470 apartments in eight storey blocks, 62 double-storey semi-detached houses, 40 bungalow lots, a club house, three units of double storey shophouses, 24 units of three-storey shops/offices and 32 units of four-storey shops/offices. -- BERNAMA

HK AAM