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Mahathir-Japanese

REFOCUS ON MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR, PM TELLS JAPANESE FIRMS

By: Tham Choy Lin

TOKYO, May 15 (Bernama) -- Japanese firms already operating in Malaysia are advised to take stock of the proposed Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in Kuala Lumpur to expand their business worldwide.

"They should look at MSC to see how they can benefit either for the purpose of manufacturing or making use of the communications infrastructure that will be put in place," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during a question-and-answer session after delivering a keynote address on Malaysia's MSC project here today.

The Prime Minister was asked for advice by a Japanese electrical company representative on how Japanese firms established in Malaysia could take part in the MSC.

Dr Mahathir said they should refocus on the multimedia industry and operate out of MSC to enhance their access and production speed all over the world.

As these Japanese companies were aware, the Malaysian government always made good its commitment and, in this, it would fully support MSC to ensure its success, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the operating cost for Japanese companies was still much lower in Malaysia due to the lower cost of living.

To another question on how Malaysia would produce engineers required of the MSC and the country's rapid development, he said the government had amended legislation to allow foreign universities to set up branch campuses and relaxed immigration policies to allow foreign experts to come in in order for locals to learn from them.

He explained that Malaysia's shift to capital-intensive industries was to reduce the foreign workforce at the lower end.

Labour-intensive industries would be transferred to neighbouring countries and Malaysian workers would be retrained to handle new automated production machinery to cope with the industrial development, he said.

The MSC covering 600 sq km links the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Putrajaya, the new federal government administrative capital, and the capital Kuala Lumpur. -- BERNAMA

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