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Muhammad-Silicon

SELANGOR PROVIDES LAND FOR THE "SILICON VALLEY"

SHAH ALAM, May 24 (Bernama) -- The Selangor government has agreed in principle to provide a piece of land for the Malaysian "Silicon Valley" in efforts to make a success of the Multimedia Super-Corridor, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib said today.

Muhammad, in welcoming the federal government's endeavour to attract investments in the computer and high technology industry, said the decision of the state government was appropriate to help achieve the Vision 2020 objective to make Malaysia a developed country by that year.

"We agree in principle to provide a piece of land between the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Putra Jaya and Kuala Lumpur to set up the Malaysian Silicon Valley," he told reporters after launching the Selangor Zakat (Tithe) Month, here.

The Zakat Month was organised by the Selangor Islamic Religious Council, Selangor Zakat Collection Centre and Selangor branch of the Malaysian Malay Chamber of Commerce.

Muhammad, did not mention the exact location of the land but expressed the hope that it would be the starting point for the creation of more such valleys in the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, on his visit to the US last week, toured the Silicon Valley in California, the world's high-tech capital, including the Stanford University Technology Park to have a first-hand look at the latest technological developments there.

The objective of his visit was also to attract investors in the field and to persuade foreign companies to move their operations to Malaysia to take advantage of the numerous incentives provided in the Multimedia Super-Corridor plan which was being developed.

Earlier, in his speech, Muhammad proposed that the zakat administrative system be centralised in the interest of Muslims.

He said that with centralised collection the distribution of the funds would be able to reach all those in need of assistance.

He also suggested that a national zakat management board be set up along the line of the Pilgrims Management and Fund Board to ensure systematic, efficient and professional zakat collection and fair distribution of the funds. -- BERNAMA

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