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Dr M: Investors' trust behind Gebeng estate success

KUANTAN, Sun. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has attributed the success of the Gebeng industrial estate to the trust and confidence of investors in the country's investment climate.

"The industrial estate has received encouraging response (from investors) and its development is now entering a second phase," the Prime Minister said in his message in the souvenir programme on the official opening of W.R. Grace Packaging (M) Sdn Bhd and W.R. Grace Specialty Chemical (M) Sdn Bhd plants.

Dr Mahathir will open the plants at the industrial estate tomorrow. The companies are subsidiaries of Florida-based W.R. Grace & Co.

"In line with the Government's effort to speed up the industrialisation process of the country, Malaysia welcomes the move by W.R. Grace and Co to expand and diversify their operations in the field of flexible packaging, its system and application, and the manufacturing of high performance silica.

"As one of the world's leading suppliers of refinery and polyolefin catalysts, the company is in the position to help Malaysia develop its chemical and petrochemical industry, especially in high value-added activities," Dr Mahathir said.

He hoped the investors would continue to have their confidence in Malaysia and continue to expand and diversify their operations in the country just like W.R. Grace & Co.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob in his message said the opening of the two factories signified the mutual commitment of Malaysia, Pahang and its corporate friends from around the world to work hand-in-hand towards industrial progress.

"It is also an occasion for justified pride because it signifies the continued success of Gebeng I and II, a dream that began more than 25 years ago," he said.

He said the opening of W.R. Grace factories was a sign that the United States and the rest of the world continued to see Malaysia as their beacon of hope on this side of the globe.

"Here, we have a workforce that is willing to both work and learn at the same time. In this context, we are glad that the workforce at W.R. Grace and Co are equally willing to work and teach us the hidden intricacies of the petrochemical industry," he said.

With this involvement of W.R. Grace and Co, Khalil said Malaysia's Eastern Corridor in which Gebeng I and II were situated would continue to grow and thrive, while easing the congestion of the development and industrialisation in the Klang Valley.

"Pahang is a classic example of the potential that several States in Malaysia offer as choice sites for industrial estates and parks.

"We hope our success will encourage our `siblings' across the nation to follow suit. As a growing State, we would welcome some `sibling rivalry' to spur us to greater heights," he added.

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