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Mahathir-Income

GO FOR BIGGER, CONSTANT INCOME, STATES TOLD

KUANTAN, March 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged state governments not to impose too many stringent conditions on investors as this will discourage them from investing in their states.

When there was less investment there would be less income for the states, he said.

By imposing high cost for land and other conditions, they would get upfront income, no doubt, but then fewer investors would come, he told a news conference after opening the Malaysia Electric Corporation Bhd (MEC) and Bandar MEC at Gambang near here.

"States should have lateral thinking and forgo upfront income for bigger and constant source of income in the long term," he said.

He said if states added to the conditions already imposed by the Federal Government then fewer investors would come to their states.

"It is important for government at federal or state level to be positive about this," he said

Dr Mahathir said if states made quick decisions and facilitated work and investment they would be able to develop their states speedily.

The Prime Minister said since Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob became Pahang Menteri Besar, the state's income had increased to RM780 million a year compared to RM180 million previously.

This reflected the Pahang Government's ability to bring about development which was beneficial to the people in the state, he said.

He said the production of MEC goods was an attempt to introduce goods with Malaysian brand names on a large scale.

He said Malaysian companies had the capacity to venture into big industries.

Dr Mahathir said if Malaysia aspired to be a world player and enter the world market, goods should not be produced at backyards but on large scale basis.

He also stressed that local industries should be self reliant and not dependent on incentives and protection.

The Prime Minister advised small scale businesses unable to achieve economies of scale to acquire shares in bigger companies as such shares would go up in price rather than stick to their small ventures. -- BERNAMA

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