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Park

KULIM HIGH TECH PARK ATTRACTS RM6 BILLION IN INVESTMENTS

ALOR SETAR, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- The Kulim High Technology Industry Park has attracted more than RM6 billion in investments, State Executive Councillor for Industries, Power and Communications Cheung Kai Yan said today.

Far from being a white elephant as claimed by some people, the park also provided jobs to locals and exposed them to high technology skills which would benefit Kedah in particular and Malaysia in general, he added.

"From the success achieved so far, it is not correct to say it is a white elephant. Just see the spin-off effect on the locals and Kulim itself," he told Bernama in an interview at Wisma Darul Aman here.

Certain groups, including State Assemblymen, claimed that the park had not attracted investors and offered no opportunities to local entrepreneurs.

Cheung said: "It is true no local investor has set up factory in the park because we do not have enough experience in the field of high technology but the locals have been given the opportunity to get contracts in the services sector, including in the area of infrastructure building.

"The high tech park has also opened opportunities to small and medium scale industries to move to Kulim to supply components for the international companies which are operating at the park."

Local entrepreneurs from Kedah were given priority in the distribution of maintenance service contracts and infrastructure provision in the park, he added.

So far, 19 companies and corporations have confirmed investments at the high tech industry park which covers 1,400 hectares in Kulim.

One of the companies, Intel Products (M) Sdn Bhd, invested RM100 million to produce computer and telecommunications parts while another company, Akashic Kubota Technologies invested RM625 million to produce aluminium components for hard disk drives.

Empak (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd invested RM50 million to produce cartridges for hard disk drives and the wafer fabrication industry was scheduled to begin operations in April while Fuji Electric Malaysia Sdn Bhd has begun work on a RM1 billion factory to produce aluminum media for the hard disk industry.

Other investors include MEMC Kulim Electronic Materials Sdn Bhd (RM1.5 billion), Kedah Wafer Emas Sdn Bhd (RM2 billion), Pernec Corporation Sdn Bhd (RM50 million), Hamadatec Sdn Bhd (RM300 million), Wong Engineering Sdn Bhd (RM15.5 million) and NSC Electron Corporation (RM400 million).

The park, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March last year, is designed to become Malaysia's Science City, a centre for the growth of the country's high technology industry.

The park will also have research and development facilities, institutions of higher learning, skills development and business centres.

For the convenience of expatriates, a golf course, recreational facilities and accommodation, such as link houses, bungalows and apartments, are available in the park. -- BERNAMA

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