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Khalil-Chemical

RIGID PROCEDURES IMPOSED ON PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

KUANTAN, March 17 (Bernama) -- Multinational companies in the Gebeng Industrial Estate here, which are involved in the chemical and petrochemical industries, have been consistently advised to conform with rigid the requirements set by the Department of Environment (DOE).

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today strict precautionary measures were imposed to ensure that the industries did not pose adverse effects to the environment.

He was speaking at the opening of the W.R. Grace & Co Packaging and Silica Plant here by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with his two-day working visit to Pahang beginning today.

The US\$100 million (RM250 million) plant located on a 30.3ha site is a leading supplier of silica and construction materials.

The plant, which employs 147 people, started production in July last year with 80 per cent of its products exported.

Khalil said the Pahang government had always welcomed foreign investments, especially capital-intensive and high-technology industries.

He said the state government viewed the operations of companies like W.R. Grace as of significance particularly in boosting development in the state.

"I am sure these companies fully understand the need to transfer the skills needed to operate the hi-tech machines in their plants to locals," he said.

In his speech, the chairman, president and chief executive officer of W.R. Grace, Albert J. Costello, cited the Malaysian government's progressive economic development policies and the country's political stability as the contributory factors which prompted the company to locate its new plant here.

"We anticipate continued strong growth in the region from all our businesses. The new Kuantan manufacturing operation will allow us to meet the growing demand for our Cryovac display films and Grace Davison silica products in the Asia-Pacific Region," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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