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Anwar-Service

ENHANCE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, SAYS ANWAR

SHAH ALAM, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today the telecommunications service in the country is still "very inadequate" and efforts must be made to enhance the related infrastructure.

"The quality of service must be enhanced. We are not satisfied and partly because all the infrastructures are not in place," he said when opening Malaysia's first mobile phone factory belonging to Swedish telecommunications giant Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, here.

Citing an example, Anwar said he had encountered a lot of problems when using his mobile phone on the way to the function.

"There was an extraordinary amount of static which surely does not happen in Sweden...we have a lot of phones but inadequate infrastructure," he said.

He said that was why telecommunication players were being urged to work together by merging their operations.

Anwar said Global System for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) and Personal Communications Network System (PCN) operators needed to set up about 1,200 and 2,500 stations respectively.

"So, a company's minor interest should be set aside towards better quality in service," he said.

Anwar also thanked Ericsson for choosing Malaysia as its first location in the Asia Pacific to manufacture and distribute mobile phones to meet the demands in this region.

"A long-term investor will look at the entire political, economic and social environment in a particular country.

"Malaysia, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has shown that we are consistent in our policies and Dr Mahathir has the support of other parties, the government and the people," he said.

He said this was critical in ensuring greater investor confidence in the country and the government was committed to taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the needs of investors were taken care of.

Anwar said the adjustments which had been made to the macro-economic policies took into account not only short-term problems but also medium- and long-term interests of the country.

"We've adjusted our fiscal policies...we've taken even unpopular measures at times to ensure that the macro-economic stabilisation process goes uninterrupted.

He also said that although the country took great pride in its dedicated and disciplined workforce, Malaysian workers and young professionals should continue to broaden their horizon and improve their capabilities.

Anwar said they should take the cue from Dr Mahathir who spent the whole of yesterday listening to the inputs of international captains of industry involved in the Multimedia Super Corridor project.

"We appeal to them (the workers) to continue to learn, to prove that Malaysians can perform excellently," he said.

He also said from his recent trips to several countries in the region, he could feel a spirit of camaraderie among the countries involved to weather the current economic hardship.

Earlier, Ericsson's outgoing president and chief executive officer Dr

Lars Ramqvist said the company, which had been in Malaysia for more than 30 years, was here to stay.

He said Ericsson registered US\$20 billion sales last year and employed 100,000 people in 130 countries. -- BERNAMA

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