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Mahathir-MSC

MSC COMPANIES PROJECTED TO MAKE RM13 BILLION IN REVENUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- Companies which have applied for Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) status are projected to have a combined revenue of around RM13 billion by the fifth year of operation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the projected profit for the same period would be close to RM5 billion.

"This is on the back of an investment of around RM4 billion," he said when opening a Roundtable on Electronic Communities in Asia organised by the London-based Economist Group, an information provider for companies establishing and managing operations internationally.

"Barely a year since we first launched the MSC, we are already beginning to see the value created from the Information Age business," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) statistics on the MSC-status companies showed increased investment in high value-added activities with revenue to investment ratio of approximately 3 to 1.

Reiterating that the MSC was progressing well ahead of schedule, Dr Mahathir said the response had been beyond the government's expectations.

He said to date, MSC status accreditation has been given to 110 companies, out of which 78 were already in operation.

The Prime Minister said since April last year, 178 applications have been received for MSC status with 39 per cent from foreign companies, 35 per cent from Malaysian companies and 26 per cent from joint ventures between Malaysian and foreign companies.

Dr Mahathir said some critics have labelled the MSC as an "ambitious, grandiose mega project".

"I will admit that it is an ambitious project but it is not for us Malaysians to implement alone. We will participate actively of course, but the MSC is for the whole world.

"We conceived it as a giant test-bed for everyone to use, everyone from everywhere," Dr Mahathir said of the MSC which covers an area of 750 sq km south of the Malaysian capital.

He said the government would invest mainly in the infrastructure for the high-technology hub. Land would be parcelled out and sold to investors wishing to set up their facilities.

"Admittedly we have to spend some money, quite a large amount in fact, but well within our capacity," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the devaluation of the ringgit had eroded some of the government's capacity "but we can still carry on."

"So the MSC will go on," the Prime Minister added. -- BERNAMA

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