

27 SEP 2000

INVESTMENT-REGULATIONS

JOHOR HAS NEVER LAID DOWN ANY INVESTMENT CONDITIONS, SAYS GHANI

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Johor has never laid down any conditions for investors wanting to invest in the state other than that which have already been established by the Malaysian Industrial Development Board.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said no additional conditions have been set except that the state government is responsible for the approval of building plans and issuing of the certificate of fitness (COF).

He said Johor practised the concept of receiving investments through a one stop agency which have been set up at state and district levels.

For the state level, Johor Corporation (JCorp) is the one stop agency in view of the fact that many industrial areas in Johor was developed by JCorp, he told reporters here today.

Abdul Ghani said a similar centre had also been established at a district level and chaired by the Yang Dipertua Majlis Daerah.

He said the Johor government also processed approvals as soon as possible for investors wanting to build their factories in the state.

According to the regulation, the certificate of fitness is issued only 14 days after a factory has been built as it required the approvals of seven departments.

Abdul Ghani, who is also chairman of JCorp, said there has never been the hassle of bureaucracy for investors entering Johor as the one stop agency operated by JCorp was efficient.

The Menteri Besar said this in response to a statement yesterday from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who urged the state governments to not to lay down all sorts of conditions that could pose difficulties for the implementation of development projects in the state.

Dr Mahathir had said that many projects approved by MIDA had been either delayed or had altogether failed due to such conditions.

"We have never received any complaints from investors that there had been too much bureaucracy while applying to establish a factory in Johor," Abdul Ghani said. -- BERNAMA

MKO SD