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Mahathir-MSK

MAHATHIR: MSC HAS ATTRACTED 34 WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) as being rather developed in that it has attracted 34 multinational and world-class companies to date.

The Multimedia Development Corporation has set a target of 50 world-class companies and 500 other small companies within the MSC by 2003.

Dr Mahathir said the MSC's development was well ahead of schedule and 334 other smaller MSC companies were already operating there.

However, not all of them were located in Cyberjaya, the MSC's heart, he told reporters after the inauguration of the Motorola Software Centre in Cyberjaya, near here.

Some of them are now located in other areas of the MSC, which spans an area 15km by 50km stretching from the KLCC Twin Towers to the KL International Airport.

Dr Mahathir believed that all the MSC companies would shift to Cyberjaya and its surrounding areas once the infrastructure in these areas were fully developed and put in place.

On whether there was interest by new parties to participate in the MSC International Advisory Panel (IAP), the prime minister said MANY people were keen to be in.

He said their presence in the IAP would be very useful because they were representing different ideas and centres and would give guidance as to what else Malaysia could do with the MSC.

On the US\$10 million investment by Motorola Inc in its software centre in Cyberjaya, Dr Mahathir said it showed the company's serious commitment to invest in Malaysia and its continued and active support for the MSC.

He said Motorola had been a very good corporate investor in Malaysia for the last 20 years.

Motorola had been expanding a lot from year to year, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Motorola, with a workforce of more than 8,000 in this country, exported "quite a big chunk of telecommunication devices from Malaysia."

"This investment by Motorola is a strong belief by the company that the MSC can prosper and excel," he added.

Meanwhile MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said Netlinx, a German e-commerce firm, would invest RM80 million in the MSC.

It is now located at the KLCC Twin Towers and will relocate to Cyberjaya in February next year.

Dr Othman said the company was for housing in the Cyberjaya area for its more than 200 employees.

He also said that a Canadian company, Don Epsscott, was also showing interest to set up an office in Cyberjaya.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ SHY JK