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MAHATHIR-MSC

MAHATHIR CALLS ON MATSUSHITA TO PLAY BIGGER ROLE IN MSC

By: Ghazemy Mahmud

TOKYO, June 8 (Bernama) - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today invited Japan's Matsushita Electric Company to play a bigger role in helping develop Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor or MSC.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that Matsushita would participate in a big way to further boost the development of the MSC.

Since 1965, he said, the relationship between the Japanese company and Malaysia had grown not only in terms of investments and exports but also in terms of local small and medium scale industries.

Malaysia wanted to further improve its technological know-how and Matsushita was advanced in research and development, he said during his visit to the Matsushita Multimedia Centre here.

"We hope to learn more from you in technology and business management. We are also inviting you to participate in the MSC," he said.

Dr Mahathir added: "Investors with MSC status are given certain privileges and we hope Matsushita would participate in a big way."

He also said Malaysia needed the cooperation to produce more knowledge-based workers.

In a speech earlier, the Japanese electronics and electrical consumer product multinational said its total production in Malaysia had reached approximately RM9 billion and it employed some 30,000 workers.

"Our export from Malaysia had grown to about RM7 billion," executive vice president Masayuki Matsushita said.

In the coming years, he added Matsushita would focus more on developing network consumer electric and electronic products and systems and creating new lifestyles in a digital network society of the 21st century.

During the visit, Dr Mahathir toured the company's HII House, a future home concept for the year 2003, and some product demonstrations at its AV and CC systems Square. Dr Mahathir arrived in Japan yesterday to begin a week-long working visit. -- BERNAMA

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