

03 SEP 2000

Mahathir-Motorola

PM HOPES MOTOROLA WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA

CHICAGO, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed the hope that Motorola Inc, a world leader providing network devices, set-top boxes and telematics solutions, will continue to invest in Malaysia.

"We also hope that Motorola will continue to employ and train Malaysians," he said during his visit to the Motorola Centre in Schaumburg, near here, Saturday.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that Malaysians recorded the second highest of the total number of employees in Motorola plants throughout the world.

Out of 140,000 employees it has throughout the world, China topped with 12,290 employees followed by Malaysia (8,717) and Taiwan (2,540).

The prime minister said many Malaysians now have been sent to other parts of the world by Motorola or other companies involved in electronics manufacturing in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir also expressed the hope that there would be closer cooperation between Motorola University in Chicago and the Multi Media University in Cyberjaya.

Meanwhile, Motorola chairman and chief executive officer Christopher Galvin, in his speech, gave an assurance that the company would never change its stand by investing in Malaysia.

"I think we will be able to bring many things for the good of Malaysians working in Motorola and hope it will be for a long time," he said.

Motorola's revenue for last year was US\$32.1 billion while the projected growth for this year is expected to increase 22 per cent.

The amount spent by Motorola on R&D alone is US\$3.5 billion.

During the tour of the Motorola Centre, Dr Mahathir saw some product demonstration.

He was also given a briefing on the company's corporate overview by its executive vice president and president for the Asia Pacific region, Tam Chung Ding.

Among the demonstration the prime minister saw was on E-Learning, telematics and autobody, mobile data and precision agriculture. He also visited the Motorola museum.

Accompanying Dr Mahathir on the visit were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and Malaysian businessmen.

Dr Mahathir arrived here Friday morning for a three-day working visit.

-- BERNAMA

MKO RM