

11 OCT 2002
Koh-Citizen
KOH WELCOMES HONORARY CITIZENSHIP CONCEPT

PENANG, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today he fully supports the proposal to give honorary citizenship to foreign experts and investors so that they can have a long stay in the country.

He said the move would further boost Malaysia's competitiveness worldwide where the country would be able to attract talents, investors and quality human resources to help Malaysia in its technology growth in the information communication technology (ICT) era.

The criteria should be real investors, quality and good experts, he told reporters after opening the US-based Mini-Circuits Technologies Malaysia Sdn Bhd's Penang facility, here.

He said the concept of honorary citizenship as mentioned by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a very good one as those conferred such status could to nation building and economic development.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the government was studying the possibility of conferring honorary citizenship on people who are willing to contribute to the Malaysian economy.

"By doing so (conferring honorary citizenship), you commit them to Malaysia. They will actually contribute even more to Malaysia and develop Malaysia into a world-class ICT hub, including multimedia and a whole range of products and services," Dr Koh said.

The chief minister said that high-quality high-tech people could train Malaysians and help them to advance.

-- BERNAMA

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