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MAHATHIR-IT

MAHATHIR: MALAYSIA NOT TOO FAR BEHIND OTHER COUNTRIES IN I.T.

PENANG, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Malaysia is not too far behind other countries in information technology (IT) as some of its technologies have scored "firsts" in the world.

Citing the example of the multi-purpose card known as "MyKad", he said although Malaysia was a relatively new entrant into IT and did not have many IT experts, the card had been recognised as the first in the world from many countries, including developed countries.

"We are still new, we do not have many experts in IT. We will take a little bit of time (to have more experts)," he told reporters after delivering a keynote address at a luncheon conjunction with the 30th anniversary celebrations of the electronics industry in Penang here.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Dr Mahathir said people from other countries had also been coming to Malaysia to find out how it was managing the multipurpose card as well as a passport checking system developed by Malaysians which had been installed in Los Angeles. -- BERNAMA

SA ZU SHY