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Mahathir-Business

BUSINESS-FRIENDLY GOVT ATTRACTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT

ALOR SETAR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- The government's business-friendly policies, born out of a trusting relationship and consultation with the private sector, have enabled the country to develop rapidly as well as attract foreign direct investments, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said that the government was always willing to listen to the private sector and resolve their problems by holding dialogues with them.

As a result, "Malaysia is a good place to invest as our government is always working very closely with foreign investors. We often provide them with pioneer status and other incentives," he said when opening the Asian Composite Manufacturing Sdn Bhd (ACM) plant at the Bukit Kayu Hitam industrial estate, about 50km from here.

Present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and ACM chairman Datuk Syed Tamim Syed Mohamed.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was a very peaceful country where the people lived in harmony and was blessed with political stability besides being a safe place for foreign visitors and investors.

Dr Mahathir also assured companies and other investors that the government would give its full commitment and cooperation in making their investments here a wise choice.

"We are not threatening them in any way. They can enjoy the friendship and hospitality of the local people as our people treat foreigners as their guests," he said.

The prime minister said that although ACM had decided to locate its factory in Bukit Kayu Hitam, which is far from Kuala Lumpur and near to the Thai border, the place was very safe.

He said he hoped that this would be a successful venture for the company and that it would never regret establishing the plant to produce composite parts for Boeing aircraft here.

He said Malaysia would make good progress in the aerospace industry and graduate from producing only low-end and less critical parts of the aircraft now to the larger components and parts.

"Hopefully, we will see the aircraft wings and tails being manufactured in Malaysia, we have built small composite training centres and we will be very happy to produce parts and components for Boeing and other companies," he said.

He said Malaysia had full employment despite having two million foreign workers, but the government was more focused on providing training in higher technology, including information technology and new technologies in composites manufacturing.

He said composite technology was used not only in aircraft but also in boats and various other sophisticated components.

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