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MAHATHIR-MSC

PM LAUNCHES MSC DEVELOPMENT SECOND PHASE

By: Mohd Arshi Daud

CYBERJAYA, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed tonight launched the second phase of the MSC (Multimedia Super Corridor) development during dinner on the second day of the 7th International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting.

He said more than six years had passed since the MSC project started but now MSC has entered its second phase.

He said in the first day of the IAP meeting yesterday, the IAP members had given many ideas on how Malaysia could benefit more from the MSC project under the second phase.

"In the second phase, we have to plan very carefully and we may want to have the MSC extended to other countries as the more people take part the better for us.

"I'm sure the second phase will be just as important as the first phase," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who will be retiring in October, said while he would not be chairing the future IAP meeting, he would follow it very closely.

"I'm quite sure even without me there will be people who will be scrutinising all the details regarding the plans for the future of the MSC."

Dr Mahathir said he believed that the MSC project would go on to prove that even if it could not be another Silicon Valley, it would become "The MSC".

The MSC he said would be "our special kind of area for the development of an application of information technology.

The MSC is a dedicated corridor of 15 km X 50 km stretching from the world's tallest twin towers - Petronas Twin Towers at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre in the north to the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport in the south.

Through the corridor, Malaysia aims to attract leading companies of the world to locate the multimedia industry in the country, undertake research, develop new products and technologies and export from this base.

The MSC is now on its second phase development, especially in relation to the roll out for the 7th MSC flagship application.

To date, there are more than 900 MSC status companies, 59 of which are world class companies. -- BERNAMA

MAD/PK KTC