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MAHATHIR-MIGHT

M'SIANS MORE CONFIDENT NOW TO INDULGE IN HIGH TECH R&D

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysians are more confident now to go for hi-technology research and development (R&D), former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We have the same capacity as others. We can do what others can do (in terms of high tech R&D)," said Dr Mahathir, who was the former patron of Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT).

He also said that Malaysia managed to build good relations in the context of coming up with new ideas and that high-tech industry was the result of new ideas in utilising the country's resources.

"Malaysia has got a lot of resources and we do not want to see others exploiting it," he said in his address at MIGHT's farewell dinner held for him and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

"We think that we should go into high-tech industry, but the (high-tech) industry is very risky business. People rather invest in property development which is much easier and get more profit," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that was why the government has taken the lead to promote high-tech industry with the private sector.

MIGHT was one of those products of Malaysia Incorporated, he said.

"Apart from investing in high-tech, we also like to work and collaborate with developed and developing countries and that was why we had the Langkawi International Dialogue and the Southern African International Dialogue," he said.

Touching on the coming general election, Dr Mahathir said that the new leadership would be able to inspire confident among the people.

"The economy is booming and I am quite sure that the Barisan Nasional will win once again," he said.

Also present at the dinner were joint-chairman MIGHT (Industry) Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali and joint-chairman MIGHT (Government) Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus. -- BERNAMA

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