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MSC project a success, says Dr M

SERI KEMBANGAN, Fri. - The Multimedia Super Corridor project has been quite successful despite what the sceptics had said of it, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there were 850 big and small companies operating out of the MSC, a figure that far exceeded the Government's initial target of 350 by year-end.

"The response to this project has been quite good. In fact, we can claim that the MSC project is a success," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at the Imperial College Alumni Association dinner at the Palace of the Golden Horses tonight.

Dr Mahathir said sceptics tended to measure the MSC's success by the number of buildings in Cyberjaya.

"Just because some buildings are empty do not mean that the project was not successful," he said, adding that many companies had moved their operational headquarters to Cyberjaya.

Shell has opened its worldwide operational centre in Cyberjaya while courier company, DHL Express, has set up one of its three operational headquarters there.

"Lots of companies are moving in to Cyberjaya to take advantage of the pleasant environment of this country, which warmly welcomes foreign investors and treats them well, too," Dr Mahathir said.

He said the MSC was created because the Government wanted to have foreign experts establish their businesses or operations in Malaysia and transfer their technology to the local knowledge workers.

He also called on more foreign scientists to come to Malaysia and conduct research at the three institutes to be set up under the multi-million ringgit BioValley project in Dengkil.