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## Tun M: Allocate fixed sum from budget for R&D

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged the government to allocate a fixed percentage of the national budget for research and development.

"General Motors spent US\$3 billion (RM9 billion) to produce their hybrid cars. We are beginning to understand that it costs money to do research and I hope the government will fix a percentage of the national budget into research.

"Maybe not 3% yet, but we should slowly work it up to 3%," Mahathir said at the Mimos 25th Anniversary celebration yesterday.

Mahathir who congratulated Mimos on its 25th anniversary, said the company has managed to change the mindset of Malaysians regarding the value of research although there are still many problems because "people don't really understand about research and development (R&D)".

"We are mainly the users of other people's R&D. For us to do research is something new and we feel that we should not be spending so much money on R&D. But, for future profit you must have R&D," said Mahathir.

Meanwhile, Science Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Maximus Ongkili who launched the anniversary noted that Mimos had contributed 40.4% or 135 of Malaysia's 334 patent applications filed at the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

"This is indeed a commendable achievement that has also been attributed for Malaysia being ranked 25th country for patents filed at the global level," said Ongkili.

To date, Mimos has developed more than 20 technology prototypes and transferred 18 of its technology platforms, cutting across all industries to 23 technology recipients.

This resulted in the creation of a RM1,092 billion business market funnel of innovations, across all industries for commercialisation by Malaysian companies aimed at pushing Malaysia's ICT industries to the global market.

Early this year, Mimos has also registered 810 patent disclosures and filed 365 patents, with six being granted.

Ongkili later presented Mimos' National ICT Leadership Award. Five Mimos innovators also received Mimos Innovator Awards