

Digital tech will boost affordable housing: PM

KUALA LANGAT: Innovation and digital technology will be the way forward in tackling the demand for affordable houses, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the use of digital Industrialised Building System (IBS) and the Building Information Modelling (BIM) integrated digital design system in public housing projects will help the government meet its one million affordable houses target within 10 years.

"I was informed that digital IBS provides an opportunity to upscale our local workforce for the future, and moving forward, the technology will enable developers to build cheaper homes in a shorter period of time.

"It is also less labour-intensive, thus reducing the country's dependency on foreign workers and yearly outflow of capital," he said in his speech when officiating at Gamuda Bhd's IBS digital plant in the Bandar Mahkota Banting industrial area.

Also present were Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar, Deputy Works Minister Mohd Anuar Mohd Tahir, Gamuda group managing director Datuk Lin Yun Ling and Gamuda board member Raja Datuk Seri Eleena Sultan Azlan Shah.

Mahathir said affordable houses, coupled with easy accessibility via an integrated public



Mahathir listens to a briefing by Gamuda IBS factory manager Lin Hui Yan (right) yesterday. - **BBXPIX**

transport infrastructure, will spur business activities and economic growth.

"This is in tandem with the government's aspirations and strategy for national housing.

"Apart from that, embracing digital IBS technology is timely as it is evolving with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the current trends of automation and manufacturing technologies that include cloud computing and BIM."

Mahathir also commended Gamuda, a pioneer in digital IBS adoption in the country,

for investing more than RM500 million in their two state-of-the-art factories in Sepang and Banting.

"Digital IBS will result in faster construction, substantial upskilling and localisation of the construction workforce and superior quality.

"I was informed that the affordable homes will be built with the same standard as high-end luxury homes.

"This is the type of disruptive technology the country needs more of," he said. - **Bernama**