

Dr M: We've come a long way since MSC launch in 1996

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PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian tech industry has come a long way since the inception of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in 1996, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said this is evident as Malaysian tech firms are now recognised as global players.

"I am proud to note that our local tech champions are now recognised as global players.

"For example, Aerodyne, which

specialises in AI-driven drone-based technology, is ranked number three in the world," said Dr Mahathir after chairing the 30th MSC Malaysia implementation council meeting yesterday.

He also noted that three local companies are listed in *Forbes Asia's* "200 Best Under A Billion 2019" category.

Dr Mahathir said local developers of digital creative content have made a name in the world of animation and games, citing titles such as *Boboiboy*, *Upin & Ipin*, *No Straight Roads*, *Cryptantcrab* and *Re: Legend*.

"There is definitely merit in attracting and adopting emerging technologies, developing tech talent and facilitating digital inclusion to ensure shared prosperity," he said.

The MSC was founded in 1996 during Dr Mahathir's tenure as the fourth Prime Minister.

Since then, MSC has created 183,000 high-value jobs in almost 3,000 companies with a total revenue of close to RM500bil.

"When we started MSC back then, the focus was on new technologies but it was very elementary.

"After I stepped down, I lost touch

with the newer technologies.

"Today I learned about 'sandbox'. I don't know how a sandbox got into highly sophisticated equipment," quipped Dr Mahathir.

In computing terms, a sandbox is a virtual space in which new or untested software or coding can run securely.

Dr Mahathir also said the meeting proposed the setting up of a National Digital Inclusion Council to focus on creating digital economy income for the people.

The council will comprise several ministries, with Malaysian Digital

Economy Corporation as the secretariat.

This will be brought up to the Cabinet for approval.

He said the initiatives presented at the meeting will continue to build on Malaysia's aim and vision of shared prosperity, utilising digital technology for the social and economic upliftment of Malaysians.

"Executed wisely, our digital economy growth will bring benefits to every Malaysian through the massive opportunities presented in today's Fourth Industrial Revolution," Dr Mahathir said.