

## **DPM: Invest in foreign technological ventures**

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Local firms advised to compete with big players to boost industry

MALAYSIAN companies have been advised to invest in technological ventures abroad to boost the technology industry and help Malaysia achieve its National Key Economic Area objectives.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the companies should take the plunge to compete in the field, instead of shying away and losing in the game.

He said it was a golden opportunity because it meant Malaysia could compete with the established players in the field.

"A good example is the SapuraCrest Petroleum Berhad's operations here. Its subsidiary, Total Marine Technology Private Ltd, manufactures remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

"A company can team up with its overseas partner to venture into an area to enhance their business or area of expertise," he said, adding that Sapura was among Malaysia's the largest oil and gas companies.

Muhyiddin was speaking after visiting the Total Marine plant at the Bibra Lake, near here, on Wednesday, as part of his four-day visit to Canberra and Perth.

Total Marine was set up in 1999 to manufacture the ROVs, which are designed for offshore oil and gas exploration, drilling and production industry.

It is the only company manufacturing and operating ROVs in Australia.

Muhyiddin said the ROV facility had huge potential and was closely related to the oil and gas industry, which was a value-added venture to SapuraCrest's business, which includes the manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for civil and military operations.

UAVs can also be used for search-and-rescue operations, oil and gas structural inspection operations, environmental conservation and high-end surveillance.

SapuraCrest, set up in 1979, is also engaged in offshore drilling services, marine services, operations and maintenance, as well as the development and operation of oil and gas fields.

Muhyiddin said oil, gas and energy was among the 12 National Key Economic Areas under the government's Economic Transformation Programme.

The 12 NKEAs, he added, served as catalysts to the Malaysian economy's growth over the next 10 years.

The deputy prime minister also visited another facility of Sapura's subsidiary, Cyber Technology WA, which designs and manufactures the UAVs.

Cyber Technology is 80 per cent owned by Sapura Secured Technologies.

Sapura Group president and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Shamsuddin said Sapura had invested some A\$200 million (RM644.6 million) in the companies here.

"Our main purpose is to acquire know-how and technology for the rest of the Sapura Group.

"About 30 of our engineers have received training here and have returned home to work with our companies in Malaysia."

Shahril added that companies from some 20 countries were using the ROVs and UAVs developed and manufactured by Total Marine and Cyber Technology.

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