

**Mokhzani Mahathir : Research capability, skilled workers to expedite economic growth**

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**By Madiha Fuad**

KUALA LUMPUR (June 18): Malaysia needs to further develop its research and intellectual property capabilities to become an efficient and fast-growing nation, Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir said.

Mokhzani who is the executive vice chairman of SapuraKencana Petroleum Bhd, and also the son of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said the country also needs to attract and retain skilled business talents.

"This is to enable this nation to grow at a rapid rate. We have an efficient legal framework, a strong financial market and specific competitive advantages in the industry," Mokhzani said at the Perdana Leadership Foundation CEO Forum 2013 here today.

According to him, the nation needs to focus on value-added services and productivity to raise its economic profile.

He said the country's strong domestic demand is a strength which is able to cushion the economy amid a deterioration in the external landscape.

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