

Industry4WRD to set the stage for a wider industrial revolution - Tun M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- The National Policy on Industry 4.0 known as Industry4WRD is set to drive Malaysia to become a strategic partner for smart manufacturing and related services in the Asia Pacific, a primary destination for hi-tech industries and a total solutions provider for advanced technology.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Industry4WRD is Malaysia's response to Industry 4.0 and beyond, and which calls for a transformation of the manufacturing sector and its related services to be smarter and stronger, driven by people, process and technology.

"Manufacturing firms can no longer reap the same yields as in previous decades, if they continue to rely on capital and labour as productivity levers. Therefore, Malaysia needs to quickly embrace Industry 4.0 to propel productivity and further enhance competitiveness," he said at the launch of the Industry4WRD here, today.

Dr Mahathir said a strong manufacturing sector would pave the way to enhanced productivity, job creation, innovation capability, high-skilled talent pool, economic prosperity and societal well-being.

"Manufacturing firms in Malaysia, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), had the potential to gain advantage from the adoption of Industry 4.0.

"With this in mind, this policy was developed to propel SMEs forward, so that they can be agile and adaptable to meet the challenges posed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution,," he added

He said as part of the Industry4WRD Policy, the Readiness Assessment programme will

further assist SMEs to measure their gaps and readiness, to guide their adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies.

"Contemporary economies are now dominated by modern service sector activities. However, the most robust and resilient economies globally retain strong manufacturing sectors.

"We have always maintained that to grow our economy, the manufacturing sector, must remain the backbone, supported by other sectors such as commodities and services," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister also said, while Malaysia had abundant natural resources and had diversified into the services sector, manufacturing played a key role in turning the country into a major player in the global value chain, apart from rapidly turning it into an industrialised nation.

He said with this policy in place, the government anticipates that by 2025, Malaysia would be one of the primary destinations for high-tech industries and rank among the top 30 nations in the Global Innovation Index.

"The success of any government policy will be measured in turn by the effectiveness of its implementation. Through the Industry4WRD Policy, the government will act as the enabler in enhancing the ecosystem for Industry 4.0.

"The industry should step up and speed up its adoption of Industry 4.0 by leveraging on this Policy. I would like to reiterate the government's commitment to ensuring the success of this policy," he added.

As in the on-going government-industry engagements, Dr Mahathir hoped industry would continue and intensify its collaboration with the government in making the policy a success.

"In the last five years, the manufacturing sector has been contributing about 23 per cent to the gross domestic product. Further, about 98.5 per cent of Malaysian SMEs are in the manufacturing sector.

"It is the manufacturing sector that allows Malaysia to consistently demonstrate dynamism and resilience to grow while attracting foreign direct investments," he added.

According to Dr Mahathir, he believed, this could all be achieved through Industry4WRD which enables the manufacturing sector to move into Industry 4.0 and along the way, contribute to fulfilling Malaysia's commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

"This policy is a collaborative effort of both the government and industry. Extensive stakeholder consultations have been undertaken in the past year to develop it," he said.

He said that Industry4WRD can be a clear strategic direction for the nation since these technologies apply across the board.

"The necessity for Malaysia to have its own policies to address Industry 4.0 is critical and the introduction of Industry4WRD marks the starting point to the wider Industrial Revolution for Malaysia," he added.

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