

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 7 OGOS 2024
AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 13

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PUCHONG: Malaysia is making significant strides in developing its own semiconductor design capabilities, reducing reliance on imported chips.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli highlighted the federal government's strategic initiative to bolster the entire semiconductor ecosystem.

This plan encompasses upstream and downstream sectors, with a particular focus on enhancing the role of original design manufacturers (ODM).

"The chips' data racks require ODM, so the federal government is looking at the overall ecosystem to complete it. We are going to have the federal agencies go down and work directly with the key players," Rafizi told reporters at the launch of Malaysia Semiconductor IC Design Park.

Aiming to transition from 'Made in Malaysia' to 'Made by Malaysia', Malaysia Semiconductor IC Design Park, in partnership with the federal government, international semi-conductor companies and venture capitalists, seeks to establish Malaysia as a formidable player in the global IC design industry.

Additionally, the integrated circuit design park, which was launched yesterday, sets the stage for the country to become a high-tech semiconductor hub, as this achievement is also a notable success of the KL20 initiative announced in April.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari and Selangor exco for investment, trade, and mobility Ng Sze Han were among those who attended the milestone event.

Rafizi expressed Malaysia's ambition to become a significant force in the global IC design sector.

"This strategic initiative is intended to capitalise on Malaysia's technological strengths and resources, fostering innovation and enhancing the nation's standing in high-tech manufacturing and design," he said in his speech.