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Malaysians to set up mobile phone assembly plant

By Maimbolwa Mulikelela

A Malaysian cellular phone manufacturing firm 'M' mobile is to establish a mobile phone assembly plant in Lusaka at a total investment out lay of US\$3 million.

Commerce Trade and Industry Minister Felix Mutati said in an interview yesterday that M mobile, which is to establish the plant in partnership with a local company Melcome, is expected to start operations later this year.

The company would have capacity to assemble about 500,000 units annually.

The minister said the assembly plant would be able to assemble cellular phones for both the local and export markets within the Southern Africa Development community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regions.

"Zambia will become the hub for exports of cell phones in the region," Mr Mutati said. Additional jobs would be created as a result of the establishment of their plant in Zambia.

"The country needs investors who will contribute to the growth of the country's economy and not investors who would only maximise profits for their personal gain," he said.

The minister also reiterated the need for local investors to partner with foreign investors which he said would go a long way to contribute to the realisation of the vision 2030.

Mr Mutati challenged local investors to take advantage of the conducive economic policies in Zambia to engage in activities which would add value to various products.

"Government has created an enabling environment for everyone so it is up to investors to utilise such opportunities which would not only benefit investors but stimulate growth," he said.

The assembly will be located off Lumumba in the industrial area.

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