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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 29 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID HE AND OTHER CABINET COLLEAGUES WILL HOLD FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO HELP IRON OUT OBSTACLES TO INVESTMENTS.

HE SAID THAT BESIDES HIMSELF, THE FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU TAN SRI RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATUK HAMZAH ABU SAMAH WILL MEET THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS.

HE PROMISED THAT IF ANY DIFFICULTIES AROSE IN IMPLEMENTING GOVERNMENT POLICIES +WE WILL WORK WITH THE CHAMBERS TO OVERCOME+ THEM.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MADE THESE REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM. THE TRANSCRIPT WAS RELEASED HERE TONIGHT.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE INJECTING \$18.6 BILLION INTO THE ECONOMY OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS (UP TO 1980) AND THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INVEST SOMETHING IN THE REGION OF \$26 BILLION,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS WAS \$16 BILLION MORE THAN ACTUAL PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN, BUT THE TARGET WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. -- BERNAMA MORE 2325/ZCM

N160: (F)
MAHATHIR - INTERVIEW 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE NOW TO MAKE THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE MORE SUITABLE FOR INVESTMENT BY BOTH LOCAL INVESTORS AS WELL AS FOREIGN INVESTORS.+

ON SECURITY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY HAS WORSENEDED +SLIGHTLY+, BUT IT WAS NOT +ALL THAT SERIOUS.+

+THE REASON WHY WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT SECURITY IS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO OVERCOME THE SITUATION, WE MUST DO IT EARLY. IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE TO NIP IT IN THE BUD.

+IF WE ARE TO ALLOW IT TO BECOME WORSE BEFORE TAKING MEASURES THEN IT WILL COST US MORE AND MAY GIVE US A LOT OF TROUBLE,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +WE WANT THE PEOPLE TO BE SERIOUS, TO BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE DEVELOPMENT AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN ORDER THAT WE CAN TACKLE THIS PROBLEM FIRST.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 2330/ZCM

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N161: (F)
MAHATHIR-INTERVIEW 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO MAKING DEVELOPMENT SECURITY-ORIENTATED TO COUNTER THE SECURITY THREAT FROM COMMUNIST TERRORISTS.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT IN AREAS WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SPENT LARGE SUMS TO BUILD ROADS AND NECESSARY FACILITIES.

THE PURPOSE WAS TWO-FOLD, TO ENABLE THE QUICK DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS AND TO BRING BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE.

TOUCHING ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT SHE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER WITH OTHER NATIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT FORMS OF GOVERNMENTS THEY HAVE.

+WHAT SORT OF GOVERNMENT THEY HAVE IS THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEM, THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIR. WE DO NOT INTERFERE AND WE DO NOT LIKE OTHERS TO INTERFERE WITH OUR INTERNAL PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 2333/ZCM