

185
Mahathir: Amendment for
Parliament next week

Govt

N.S.T. 30MA
extends ICA

IR 1977

(p)

deadline

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. —
Manufacturers are to get more time to apply for a licence under the Industrial Coordination Act, because of proposed amendments to the Act.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today: "We are just short of throwing out the entire Act."

Manufacturers had been given an April 30 deadline. This has now been extended, and a new date will be announced next week, when the proposed amendments are tabled in Parliament.

Dr Mahathir, who chairs the Cabinet Committee on Investment, said the 34 conditions attached to the Act would also be made simple.

"The important thing is that there will be flexibility in implementing the conditions.

"In other words we have done everything possible to allay the fears of the manufacturers. We have in fact gone a long way towards meeting most of their requests," he said.

Asked whether industry would be happy with the amendments, he said people would always feel that they did not get what they wanted.

He added that there had to be some regulations to coordinate the industrial development of the country.

He pointed out that there were various regulations and conditions relating to private investment even in the United States.

Mahathir for a follow-up visit to Middle East

S.T. 30 MAR 1977

★ From Page One

Dr Mahathir said the original 30-page questionnaire to be filled in by manufacturers had also been "modified considerably."

"We have reduced it to only four pages but (the manufacturers) will be required to complete only the relevant sections.

"Also, the questions will be very simple and straight-forward."

Dr Mahathir disclosed that he would leave on Thursday for a week-long visit to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to follow-up on the contacts established by Datuk Hussein Onn when he visited the Middle East in January.

He said he would have discussions generally on West Asian investment in Malaysia and possible assistance in various fields, and ways to implement the co-operation broached by Datuk Hussein.

After Saudi Arabia, Dr. Mahathir would visit Britain and Ireland for another week.

In Ireland, he will present a cash donation from Malaysia to the Royal College of Medicine in Dublin.

He declined to reveal the amount, but said it would be more than previous contributions.

Dr Mahathir said the college, a private institution which depends on public contributions, had provided training places for a large number of Malaysian doctors.

"We try to do our part to help the College," he added.

He would discuss with college authorities on future training places for more Malaysians.

In Britain, he would also meet Malaysian students.