

Coming up: A central unit for investors

By REJAL ARBEE
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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — A central unit to cut "red tape" is being set up in the Trade and Industry Ministry, Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir who is the new Minister of Trade and Industry said that while when someone wanted to invest here "he has got to meet so many people and officials and sometimes being pushed from pillar to post".

What he wanted to do was to bring all the relevant officials together so that whatever answers needed by the potential investor could be given right away and decisions on the investment made.

"I don't want the potential investor running from one Ministry to another," he added.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir said current procedures had hindered investment in certain areas though the electronic industry had obtained a fast system of approval.

He said Malaysia had now emerged as the biggest producer of integrated circuits in the world.

Commenting on the slow growth of domestic investment, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir said that he tried to find the causes. "I would like to know why some investors

Industry said his predecessor, Datuk Seri Hamzah Abu Samah had already taken steps to set up the unit which was proposed last month.

"I will now look into it personally," he told reporters on his return after a three week visit to the United States.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir, also the Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Investment, said currently

and no one should deny good country to invest in prosperity to others. but not so the local investors".

He said he was prepared to consider adjustments if necessary to encourage local investment.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir said his concern as the new Minister of Trade and Industry was to see that everybody — the workers, the investors as well as the unemployed — got a fair share of the wealth of the country.

He said that Malaysia was considered as one of the most prosperous countries in the world

**Education
Ministry
in good
hands:
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The Deputy Prime Minister said that while in the United States he spoke to businessmen in Dallas and Washington, met State Department and other US officials as well as Malaysian students in Ohio.

Commenting on his successor in the Education Ministry, he said: "It is in good hands.

"Datuk Musa Hitam had a long association with education especially students. I have no doubt that Datuk Musa will carry out his task well."

Asked about claims by PAS that they would beat him in the next general elections, he said it was up to the electorate to decide.

"We have to face the electorate every five years and I have lost before. If it is for the good of the country that I should lose again, then I am prepared to lose."