

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 25 (BERNAMA)—THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES THE SETTING UP OF MORE SUPPORTIVE INDUSTRIES TO PRODUCE VARIOUS COMPONENTS REQUIRED BY THE EXISTING LOCAL INDUSTRIES, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THIS WAS ESPECIALLY SO WITH THE RISING VALUE OF THE JAPANESE YEN WHERE MOST OF THE COMPONENTS NEEDED BY THE INDUSTRIES HERE WERE IMPORTED FROM JAPAN.

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER VISITING THE MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC CO. (M) BHD. AT SHAH ALAM AND LATER A DIALOGUE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE COMPANIES HERE THAT LOCAL COMPANIES WERE AT PRESENT UNABLE TO SUPPLY THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS NEEDED BY THE INDUSTRIES HERE.

THE INABILITY OF LOCAL COMPANIES TO SUPPLY THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS NEEDED BY THE JAPANESE INDUSTRIES HERE WAS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE JAPANESE COMPANIES' REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR MEETING WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER.

OTHER PROBLEMS RAISED BY THEM WERE ON EQUITY SUCH AS THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING THE REQUIRED BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION, INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, AND SLOW PROGRESS TOWARDS SETTING UP FREE TRADE ZONE.

—BERNAMA MORE HM 1523

NO47 (F)
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE HAD ASSURED THE JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.

HIS MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS WAS ALSO TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH THE NEEDS OF THE JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR JAPAN AT THE END OF OCTOBER TO LEAD AN INVESTMENT MISSION.

THE JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS HERE WOULD PRESENT A REPORT TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE JAPANESE TRIP.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT CERTAIN SECTIONS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS CONTINUED TO GIVE BAD PUBLICITY TO THIS COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE BAD PUBLICITY HAD, AT LEAST, MADE MALAYSIA WELL KNOWN TO THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

—BERNAMA MORE HM 1530

NO48 (F)
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE INDUSTRIAL COORDINATION ACT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS AGAINST IT FROM THE JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN.

IN FACT, THE ICA HAD NEVER POSED ANY PROBLEM TO FOREIGN INVESTORS IN HIS MEETING WITH THEM DURING HIS OVERSEAS' MISSIONS.

"THE ONLY PERSONS WHO ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE ICA ARE THE POLITICIANS WHO HAD OTHER MOTIVES," HE REMARKED.

ON HIS TRIP TO JAPAN, HE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS TO CLEAR ANY DOUBTS THEY HAD ON MALAYSIA AND ALSO TO ATTRACT MORE JAPANESE INVESTMENTS.

HE SAID HE WOULD LEAD A THREE-WEEK INVESTMENT MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES BEGINNING SEPT. 22. THE TRIP WOULD TAKE THEM TO NEW YORK, SEATTLE, HOUSTON, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES.

HE SAID THE MATSUSHITA'S BUSINESS RECORD SHOWED THAT THE JAPANESE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THIS COUNTRY.

THIS WAS REFLECTED BY THE COMPANY'S INCREASED INVESTMENT FROM \$3.5 MILLION IN 1966 TO \$80 MILLION THIS YEAR.

HE DISCLOSED THAT A COMPANY WOULD BE SET UP SOON IN JOHORE TO PRODUCE PARTS FOR TELEVISION AND COMPUTERS FOR EXPORTS.