

MAHATHIR - EQUITY

FROM MUSA SCULLY: 78

HOUSTON, SEPT. 28 (BERNAMA) — THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TODAY ASSURED INDUSTRIALISTS AND FINANCIERS IN THIS OIL RICH CITY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CHANGE THE EQUITY CONDITION IN FAVOUR OF MALAYSIANS.

OPENING A FIDA INVESTMENT CENTRE AT THE IMPRESSIVE WORLD TRADE CENTRE DOWNTOWN HERE, HE SAID: +THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED AND WILL NOT HAPPEN IN MALAYSIA.+

IN MAKING THE ASSURANCE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOME COMPANIES HAD EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT ALTHOUGH INITIALLY THEY MIGHT BE APPROVED WITH AN EQUITY CONDITION ACCEPTABLE TO THEM +THE GOVERNMENT MAY AFTER SEVERAL YEARS DECIDE TO CHANGE THE EQUITY CONDITION IN FAVOUR OF MALAYSIANS.+

HE TOLD MORE THAN 70 PARTICIPANTS MOSTLY TOP BRASS IN THE OIL INDUSTRY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NATIONALISATION OR EXPROPRIATION ALTHOUGH LEGITIMATE ACQUISITION THROUGH THE PURCHASES OF SHARES MIGHT BE DONE.

HE SAID EVEN WHEN NATIONALISATION WAS THE FAVOURITE PRE-OCCUPATION OF NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES MALAYSIA REFUSED TO BE SEDUCED BY ITS BLANDISHMENTS.

+WE APPRECIATE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AND ARE CONFIDENT ENOUGH OF OUR OWN ABILITY TO RESIST THE BANANA REPUBLIC TYPE OF MANIPULATION,+ HE ADDED.

SO THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE RULES OF THE GAME MIDSTREAM.

OUTLINING THE GUIDELINES OF INVESTMENT TO THE PARTICIPANTS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE NOT INVESTED IN MALAYSIA OR THE ASEAN REGION, DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +THESE ARE GUIDELINES AND GUIDELINES BY DEFINITION CANNOT BE REGID.+

HE REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE ALL VIEWS AS LONG AS THE BENEFITS WERE FAIRLY SHARED BETWEEN THE INVESTORS AND THE HOST COUNTRY.

MALAYSIA EXPECTED A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO ITS GROWTH AND WELL BEING, HE SAID.

+YOU ARE WELCOME TO THIS PROFIT BUT WE EXPECT YOU TO BE EQUALLY PRAGMATIC. GOOD HEARTED BUSINESSMEN DO NOT EXPECT TO GET EVERYTHING OUT OF THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY OPERATE AND GIVE NOTHING BACK IN RETURN.

TOUCHING ON MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TOLD TEXANS THAT MALAYSIA WAS A FINANCIALLY SOUND COUNTRY AND THAT +ONE COULD DO BUSINESS WITHOUT FEAR OR UNCERTAINTY.+

HE SAID THAT AMERICANS, THE PEOPLE MOST ADVANCED IN OIL TECHNOLOGY MUST KNOW THE POTENTIALS THAT INVESTMENT IN OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRESENTED. — BERNAMA MORE 1032/ZCM

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## MAHATHIR-EQUITY 2. HOUSTON

NOW A PRODUCER AND A NETT EXPORTER OF OIL MALAYSIA'S OFF-SHORE STRIKES RECENTLY INDICATED THAT OIL PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS WOULD INCREASE.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT BY THE EIGHTIES MALAYSIA'S LNG PROJECT, ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE WORLD, WOULD BE ON STREAM.

EARLIER, SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, CHAIRMAN OF FIDA, DATUK JAMIL JAN, EXPLAINED THE NEW LICENSING ROLES OF PETRONAS AND MINISTRY TRADE WITH REGARD TO UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID POTENTIAL AREAS OF INVESTMENT WERE IN DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY LIKE NITROGENOUS FERTILISER.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RUBBER-BASED INDUSTRIES.

EARLIER, MR. ROLF R. HABERECHE THE VICE PRESIDENT OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS WHICH HAS ITS PLANT IN ULU KELANG, SAID THE QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE TALENTED AND CAPABLE MALAYSIAN WORKER WAS EXCELLENT.

PRAISING THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN ITS LONG TERM POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, HE SAID HIS FIRM HAD AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT EXPERIENCE IN MALAYSIA AND WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MALAYSIA'S HEALTH, ECONOMY AND POLITICAL STABILITY WOULD HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN TEXAS INSTRUMENTS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOPED TO CLEAR BY THE LATE EIGHTIES ABOUT US\$10 BILLION IN SALES THROUGH ITS PLANT IN MALAYSIA.

THE SEMINAR DREW QUESTIONS ON PROJECT FINANCING THROUGH MALAYSIAN BANKS, LABOUR UNIONS, TAX STRUCTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH FIGURES, NEW ROLE OF PETRONAS IN UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES, UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION, OWNERSHIP OF FACTORIES AND EXPANSION OF FOREIGN BANK BRANCHES.

LATER, DR. MAHATHIR SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE MALAYSIA WANTED NEW TECHNOLOGY TO COME INTO THE COUNTRY FOR THE PROCESSING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

THERE WAS A NEED FOR US TECHNOLOGY TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM BY-PRODUCTS.

AMERICAN COMPANIES DID NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEMS IN MALAYSIA AND WERE ALWAYS WELCOME.

THE US NOW RANK THIRD AFTER JAPAN AND SINGAPORE IN INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA (US INVESTMENTS IN MANUFACTURING TOTALLED ABOUT 239 MILLION RINGGIT. — BERNAMA 1044/2CM