

MAHATHIR

80 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA IS NOW RATED AMONG THE MOST ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT CENTRES IN ASIA AND IS IN A POSITION TO CHOOSE THE INVESTORS RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY ROUND, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TONIGHT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE REASON FOR THIS TURNAROUND LAY IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE INVESTORS.

+TO COUNTER THE VICIOUS ANTI-MALAYSIA PROPGANDA BY CERTAIN JOURNALISTS, WE WENT OUT TO TALK WITH THE INVESTORS OURSELVES,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, ADDED.

ADDRESSING PARTICIPANTS OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL'S FOURTH SOUTHEAST ASIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICE (SEAPES) MEETING AT A DINNER HERE, HE ASSURED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN SWITCH IN POLICY +BARRING UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.+

HE SAID MALAYSIA CONTINUED TO WELCOME INVESTORS AND IN ADDITION +WE HAVE DECIDED TO ALLOW OFFSHORE TRADING, PROVIDED THAT MALAYSIANS CAN JOIN IN.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1923/LK
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET WAS STILL NOT AS ACCESSIBLE TO MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AS IT SHOULD BE.

MALAYSIA DID NOT INTENT TO REMAIN THE WORLD'S RUBBER AND OIL PALM ESTATES AND TIN MINES, HE SAID.

+WE BELIEVE IN A DIVISION OF LABOUR WHEREIN WE ARE NOT MERELY ALLOCATED THE ROLE OF PLANTERS AND MINERS BUT ALSO THAT OF SMALL-TIME MANUFACTURERS OF SIMPLE GOODS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THIS WOULD NOT HURT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BUT THEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF AS THEY COULD USE THEIR SCARCE AND COSTLY ENERGY TO PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED AND HIGH-VALUE ADDED ITEMS WHICH WOULD EARN THEM HUGE PROFITS.

+AS WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, BOTH THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL GAIN THROUGH THE VISION OF LABOUR WE ARE ASKING FOR,+ HE ADDED. 206

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MUCH RESISTANCE WAS STILL BEING SHOWN BUT EVENTUALLY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD REALISE THAT SINCE THEY COULD NO LONGER HAVE A CAPTIVE COLONIAL MARKET, THE NEXT BEST THING WAS TO STIMULATE AND THEN SHARE A RICH MARKET. — BERNAMA 1926/LK