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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 4 (BERNAMA)-CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BUSINESS SCHEME WOULD BE PAID THEIR FULL SALARIES ONLY DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

AFTER THEIR TRAINING IF THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE IN BUSINESS THEN THEY SHOULD RESIGN FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE, HE CLARIFIED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON ARRIVAL FROM LONDON AFTER ATTENDING THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY WOULD BE PAID DURING THE TRAINING AS IT WAS A GOVERNMENT SPONSORED SCHEME.

MOREOVER THE CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD NOT COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC DURING THE PERIOD OF TRAINING.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CLARIFICATION WAS NECESSARY AS SOME PEOPLE HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THAT THE LAUNCHING OF THE SCHEME WOULD AFFECT THE CIVIL SERVICE AS THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS WOULD DO BUSINESS DURING OFFICE HOURS AND WHILE STILL IN SERVICE.--MORE 2133/HM

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ELABORATING ON THE MATTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ALL KNEW THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO INVEST UP TO \$10,000 IN BIG COMPANIES IN WHICH THEY HAD NO INFLUENCE.

+THAT BEING SO, THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE CHARGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED ITS STAFF TO GO INTO BUSINESS WHILE STILL IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE DETAILS OF THE TRAINING SCHEME HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED YET.

DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID SOME JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN HAD SHOWN INTEREST FRANCHISE SYSTEM OF RETAILING PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY.

+HOW AND WHAT TYPE OF RETAIL BUSINESS THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN WILL BE DECIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.--MORE 2135/HM

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID A COMPUTER FIRM HAD ALREADY INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO PRODUCE COMPUTERS IN MALAYSIA FOR EXPORT.

HE SAID WHILE IN NEW YORK HE MET INVESTORS WHO INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO INVEST IN THE COUNTRY.

ACCORDING TO HIM ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH ENCOURAGED THE INVESTORS WAS MALAYSIA'S HIGH CREDIT RATING.

HE WAS PROUD THAT MALAYSIA WAS ONE OF THE 20 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHICH HAD HIGH CREDIT RATING.

+IN THIS REGION WE ARE ONE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE CATEGORY, AND I AM PROUD BECAUSE WE ARE RESPECTED IN THE FOREIGN MONETARY MARKET,+ HE ADDED.--BERNAMA 2136/HM