

MAHATHIR-COMMERCE

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 8.30 P.M. (DEC. 2)

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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 2 (BERNAMA ES) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TONIGHT SPOKE OF HOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE COUNTRY HAVE MISSED VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE MALAYSIA'S EXPORTS BY THEIR FAILURE TO +CATCH+ VISITING FOREIGN LEADERS.

ILLUSTRATING HIS POINT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT BUSINESS BODIES IN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA WOULD TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ENTERTAIN TO LUNCHEES OR DINERS TO TALK BUSINESS WITH VISITING DIGNITARIES.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (NCCI) HERE, HE SAID THAT HE HAD YET TO HEAR OF THE CHAMBER MAKING THE SAME APPROACH WITH VISITING PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS OR OTHER LEADING FIGURES, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH TRADE.

SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO PROMOTE EXPORTS AS +THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME FOLLOW-UP IF THE TOP IS INTERESTED IN ANYTHING TO DO WITH TRADE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE ASKED THE NCCI TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH WISMA PUTRA (FOREIGN MINISTRY) TO ARRANGE FOR MEETINGS WITH ANY VISITING DIGNITARY.

+IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL ALL THE TIME BUT I'M SURE SOMETIME, SOMEHOW WISMA PUTRA CAN ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING.+ --  
MORE 2006/ZI