

# PM on those who go for the 'panic button'

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JOHORE BARU, Sat. —

The Prime Minister today expressed regret over the attitude of some people who dabble in the share market and "go for the panic button" and start selling or buying shares the moment they hear a rumour.

"I fail to understand them as they not only put the share market out of gear, but also frighten potential investors," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said, citing some examples of how "panic" among certain share market dabblers ended up in the values of some shares shooting up to unbelievable levels.

Speaking at the opening of the \$4 million Medical Latex Sdn. Bhd., at the Senal Industrial Estate, near here, he said he could not understand why the shares of certain companies were so high although these companies might not be making as much profit as others that were doing better.

He said it was wrong for people to equate a company's share market standing with its performance.

"Shares go up or come down because there are those who rush into buying or selling on listening to rumours.

"Just because somebody started rumours that a bank had no more money because it was connected with OTB, people panicked and started to withdraw their savings."

He said the same had been happening in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange "each time someone utters anything about the MCA."

"Daim (Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin) says something about the interest rates and there is panic which either pushes up or brings down share prices."

Dr Mahathir said he had studied the trend in the share market and was convinced that a company's performance had nothing to do with the shares.

He said there were also those who had been using the world recession as an excuse to say that business has not been good in the country.

Yet there were companies which had been making good progress and these were the companies that had been involved in the production of

goods which the people could not afford to say no inspite of the economic slow down.

Citing the performance of Medical Latex, he said, the company was manufacturing medical items which people still needed.

"As far as the Government is concerned, it will not disappoint those interested in investing in the country. We have the manpower and the raw materials, like rubber but much also depends on the foresight of the investors.

He said he was happy to note that because of disparity in the exchange rate between Malaysia and Singapore, business in Johore had picked up.

"But we should not be complacent. Our aim is to improve the per capita income. If other countries can do this, then we too should be able to," he said.

Also present at the ceremony was Johore Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ajib.

After touring the factory, Dr Mahathir planted a rubber tree at the factory site before flying off to Kuala Lumpur from the Sultan Ismail airport, completing his two day official visit to Johore.