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MAHATHIR-KLCE

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI (DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE SYSTEM IS A VITAL PART OF A MODERN MARKET ECONOMY AND NOT A +CASINO+ FOR GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEMES.

IT WAS A SERIOUS VOCATION THAT REQUIRED RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICAL PRACTICES, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE NEW KUALA LUMPUR COMMODITY EXCHANGE (KLCE) PREMISES AT THE PODIUM BLOCK OF THE DAYABUMI COMPLEX HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER ALSO LAUNCHED THE PALM OIL AND RUBBER FUTURES MARKET UNDER THE REVISED TRADING ARRANGEMENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AN EXCHANGE SUCH AS THE KLCE DID NOT REALLY TRADE IN MATERIAL THINGS BUT IN +FAITH AND INTEGRITY.+ -- MORE

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HE DESCRIBED INTEGRITY AS AN IMPORTANT COMMODITY IN AN EXCHANGE AND THE +BIGGEST CAPITAL+ IN THIS KIND OF MARKET.

THEREFORE, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT PARTICIPANTS WERE CAREFULLY VETTED AND WERE PEOPLE OF SOME SUBSTANCE AND REPUTATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EXCESSIVE SPECULATION AND BREACHES OF GOOD FAITH MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY, IMPARTIALLY AND QUICKLY.

+WE CAN HAVE LAWS AND RULES AND COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS TO KEEP EVERYONE IN LINE. BUT THESE WILL NOT BE OF ANY USE IF A TRADER IS DETERMINED TO CHEAT,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THERE ARE TOO MANY OPPORTUNITIES AND LOOPHOLES OF WHICH THE UNSCRUPULOUS AND THE IRRESPONSIBLE COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE.

HE SAID THE EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF THE EXCHANGE AND THE CLEARING HOUSE WAS CRITICAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE FUTURES MARKET.
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HE SAID THAT SINCE BOTH INSTITUTIONS WERE INTERRELATED IN THEIR DAILY OPERATIONS, THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE AN EFFECTIVE LINE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM TO ENABLE THEM TO ACT QUICKLY TO DEAL WITH ANY UNTOWARD DEVELOPMENT THAT MIGHT UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKET.

IN HIS SPEECH, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK PAUL LEONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH A STRENGTHENED EXCHANGE AND CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY, THE KLCE AND THE NEW CLEARING HOUSE, MALAYSIAN FUTURES CLEARING CORPORATION (MFCC), WOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY.

KLCE CHAIRMAN TAN SRI LEE BOON CHIM, WHO ALSO SPOKE, SAID THE MEMBERS HAD PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE EXCHANGE AND WOULD TRADE IN THE PALM OIL FUTURES MARKET UNDER THE NEW TRADING ARRANGEMENTS. --

BERNAMA

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