

0702

U E970 AAE
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT
BM

PULAU PINANG, SEPT 15 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE FEARS THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL STABILITY AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE WILL BE AFFECTED IF THE GOVERNMENT CARRIES OUT A REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AS URGED BY CERTAIN GROUPS.

IN ANY REVISION, THERE WOULD SURELY BE BUMIPUTERAS AND NON-BUMIPUTERAS MAKING EXTREME DEMANDS WHICH WOULD DISRUPT THE POLITICAL STABILITY AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE BEING ENJOYED NOW, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR CERTAIN BUMIPUTERA GROUPS TO DEMAND THAT CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS OF NON-BUMIPUTERAS BE WITHDRAWN AND FOR CERTAIN NON-BUMIPUTERA GROUPS TO WANT THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OF THE MALAYS TO BE ABOLISHED.

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THAT AS A NATION WHICH PRACTISED FREEDOM OF SPEECH, EVERYONE COULD VOICE HIS VIEWS, INCLUDING MAKING EXTREME CLAIMS FOR INCLUSION IN A NEW CONSTITUTION.

SUCH A SITUATION WOULD SURELY AFFECT THE STABILITY BEING ENJOYED, AS A RESULT OF WHICH INVESTORS WOULD NO LONGER WANT TO PUT THEIR INVESTMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY, HE SAID. -- MORE
1313MST 15 09 87

U E972 AAE
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT 2 PULAU PINANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE REVISION CALLED FOR WAS NOT NECESSARY AT PRESENT.

HE SAID THAT IF ANY QUARTERS WISHED TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO ANY PART OF THE CONSTITUTION, THEY COULD SUBMIT THESE TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

+WE CAN MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AS THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAS A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO OPPRESS ANY MINORITY GROUP IN THE COUNTRY AND THEY WERE FREE TO SPEAK OUT AND PUT FORTH ANY VIEW.

+HOWEVER, WHEN THEIR VIEWS ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY, IT IS PROPER THAT THE MATTER END THERE,+ HE SAID.

IN FACT, HE SAID, THEY SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN SPACE IN THE NEWSPAPERS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS ON WITH THE ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE MAJORITY. THOSE MAKING THE DEMANDS DID NOT REPRESENT ANYONE, HE SAID. -- MORE
1329MST 15 09 87

U E973 AAE
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT 3 PULAU PINANG

TO ANOTHER QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT PRESENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS DID NOT CREATE ANY ANXIETY AMONG FOREIGN INVESTORS WHO HAD INVESTED HERE AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE TO BE AFFECTED BY WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN UMNO AND THE MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES ALTHOUGH IT WAS EASY FOR THE LOCAL SHARE MARKET TO BE AFFECTED EVEN BY RUMOURS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN HIS NATION-WIDE TOUR HE HAD ADVISED BN PARTIES TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS FACED THROUGH CONSULTATIONS AND NOT TO ISSUE PRESS STATEMENTS.

HE BELIEVED THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS WOULD NOT BE EASILY SWAYED BY THE MATTERS DISSEMINATED AS THE INVESTORS WOULD SURELY MAKE INDEPTH ASSESSMENTS BEFORE COMING TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, SONY CORPORATION HAD CHOSEN TO INVEST IN THIS COUNTRY AFTER STUDYING SEVERAL COUNTRIES BECAUSE MALAYSIA WAS STABLE AND HAD A GOOD INVESTMENT CLIMATE. -- BERNAMA
1341MST 15 09 87