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U E156 ENG
MAHATHIR-CHAMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 10⁸⁸ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT SUGGESTED THAT A DISCUSSION BE HELD ON THE CASH-FLOW PROBLEM FACED BY LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS.

THE DISCUSSION COULD BE HELD AMONG BANK NEGARA, COMMERCIAL BANKS AND THE VARIOUS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HE SAID AT THE ASSOCIATED CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF MALAYSIA (ACCCIM) ANNUAL DINNER HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS WILLING TO ATTEND THE DISCUSSION AS A +REFEREE+.

HE SAID THIS IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL BY ACCCIM PRESIDENT TAN SRI WEE BOON PING URGING HIM TO LOOK INTO THE CASH-FLOW PROBLEM CURRENTLY FACED BY BUSINESSMEN.

TAN SRI WEE HAD SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE PROBLEM WAS FACED NOT ONLY BY THE CHINESE BUSINESSMEN BUT ALSO THE MALAY ENTREPRENEURS.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVENTION WOULD HELP ENSURE THAT BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE INTERESTED COULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR INVESTMENTS IN VIABLE PROJECTS. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE CHINESE IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ON THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC EXPANSION, HE SAID IT HAD ACHIEVED A 4.7 PERCENT GROWTH BUT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN HIGHER IF NOT FOR THE CUTBACK IN THE PRODUCTION OF OIL.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO REDUCE THE OIL PRODUCTION LEVEL BECAUSE IT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE OIL PRICES, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CHINESE BUSINESSMEN SHOULD WORK TOGETHER WITH THEIR MALAY COUNTERPARTS TO ENSURE A HEALTHY ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HE SAID ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES PERTAINING TO BUSINESSES WERE DESIGNED TO HELP THE CHINESE AS MUCH AS THE OTHER COMMUNITIES. --

BERNAMA

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