

PM TO INVESTORS: SPREAD GOOD NEWS

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PENANG, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia is helpless against censorship of the international media, and asked foreign investors to help.

The Prime Minister urged them to disseminate correct information about Malaysia.

"We cannot defend ourselves because those controlling the international media denies us the right, through censorship, to give our side of the story," he said when opening an American glove-making factory in Bayan Baru.

Also present were Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Raja Ariffin Raja Sulaiman

and Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu.

Dr Mahathir said foreign investors should tell others overseas about the opportunities offered and that Malaysia was safe and suitable as a profit centre for all kinds of manufacturing activities.

"I am sure everyone is aware that Malaysia, of late, has been receiving a considerable amount of negative publicity in the international media."

He said the negative comments ranged from allegations that democracy was being threatened in Malaysia to denouncements of Malaysians being barbarians.

Dr Mahathir said the glove-making factory em-

ployed over 3,000 workers and had invested almost US\$100 million.

"This should be sufficient proof to those who looked towards Malaysia for new investments that negative comments about our country are lies."

He said such comments "are just borne out of envy because of our ability to prosper and to recover under its own steam."

"We are not bitter about such crude attacks but we will continue to welcome foreigners as investors or as tourists," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the country's economy, which was weak at one time because of global recession, had recovered.

Bank Negara, he said, had

predicted a 4.7 per cent growth in the country's economy this year while an institution comprising economists had predicted a growth of over five per cent.

"We will achieve this growth if there are no negative efforts which will hamper the political climate of the country," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the country's image should not be tarnished because of "political jealousy" to the extent that investors and tourists were frightened away.

He said such actions would affect the economic growth and recovery, resulting in workers and graduates being unemployed.