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MAHATHIR-CONFIDENCE

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SEKINCHAN, OCT 9 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MUHAMMAD'S RECENT SUCCESS IN BOOSTING EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN TRUST IN MALAYSIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IS TESTIMONY OF THE WORLD'S INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN HIS LEADERSHIP, IT WAS SAID TODAY.

SELANGOR HENTERI BESAR DATUK MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB SAID THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DURING HIS JUST-CONCLUDED OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE TWO CONTINENTS SUCCEEDED IN INCREASING THEIR INVESTORS' AND LEADERS' CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIA'S STABILITY.

NO FOREIGN INVESTORS WOULD INJECT ADDITIONAL FUNDS INTO A COUNTRY UNLESS THEY HAD CONFIDENCE IN ITS ECONOMY AND LEADERSHIP, AND THE HENTERI BESAR SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THERE WERE STILL GROUPS IN MALAYSIA UNHAPPY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP WHEN WORLD LEADERS THEMSELVES HAD ACKNOWLEDGED HIS ABILITIES.

LAUNCHING A MINI-SENARAK (LOYALTY WITH THE PEOPLE) GATHERING FOR THE TANJUNGS KARANG PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY HERE, HE SAID WHILE WORLD LEADERS HAD PAID HIGH TRIBUTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SOME GROUPS OF DETRACTORS HAD ACCUSED HIS LEADERSHIP OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEMS BESETTING THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

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IN FACT, THESE CRITICS SPREAD TALES ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ALLEGED FAILINGS TO INSTIGATE HATRED TOWARDS HIM. HOWEVER, THE HENTERI BESAR BELIEVES ONLY A SMALL GROUP ARE AFFECTED BUT THE MAJORITY ARE STILL HAPPY WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS SEEN IMPROVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

DATUK MUHAMMAD SAID UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S GUIDANCE, THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY RECORDED A NINE PERCENT GROWTH RATE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

+ IF THE GENERAL POPULACE ARE AGAINST HIS LEADERSHIP, RIOTS WOULD SURELY HAVE BROKEN OUT AS HAD HAPPENED IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN BURMA AND OTHER COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.

HE APPEALED FOR A STOP TO THE RUMOUR-MONGERING WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT EFFORTS TO WOO INVESTMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY, SAYING EVERYONE HAD THEIR WEAKNESSES AND FAILINGS, BUT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO MAKE SUCH A BIG FUSS OVER THESE TO THE EXTENT OF SCARING AWAY FOREIGN INVESTORS.

ON MOVES TO BRING IN JOB-GENERATING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO RURAL AREAS IN SELANGOR SUCH AS SABAK BERNAM AND KUALA SELANGOR, HE SAID SEVERAL ZONES IN SABAK BERNAM HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME VIABLE INDUSTRIAL SITES. -- MORE

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINI-SEMAK GATHERING, DATUK MUHAMMAD JOINED LOCAL RESIDENTS IN BUILDING A CANTEEN FOR THE SEKINCHAN RELIGIOUS PRIMARY SCHOOL HERE.

HE PRESENTED A TOTAL OF \$36,000 IN RELIEF GRANT TO 36 FAMILIES FROM THE KAMPUNG MERBAU BERDARAH YOUTH LAND SCHEME AFFECTED BY RECENT FLOODS.

TWENTY-FOUR ORPHANED AND POOR SCHOOLCHILDREN IN AND AROUND SEKINCHAN RECEIVED BICYCLES WORTH A TOTAL OF \$5,000 FROM THE MENTERI BESAR. -- BERNAMA

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