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MAHATHIR-ECONOMY

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 9 (BERNAMA) -- SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY CAN BE SEEN +EVERYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY+, WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS FLOWING IN ENORMOUSLY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVING TO UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

— CITING AT LEAST TWO PROPOSALS OF INVESTMENTS OF SOME US\$1,000 MILLION THAT HAD BEEN RECEIVED HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD GEAR THEMSELVES TO MATCH THE ACCELERATED PACE OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (NCCIM) DINNER HERE TONIGHT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE +SUDDEN SURGE+ IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE VARIOUS SHORTAGES CURRENTLY BEING FELT AND THOSE WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SHORTAGE OF 101000 WORKERS IN THE KLANG VALLEY, WHICH MEANS THAT MORE JOBS WERE BEING CREATED.

+WE ALSO FIND THAT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS SUDDENLY BECOMING INADEQUATE,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR EXPANSION AND UPGRADING OF SERVICES AT THE PORTS AT PORT KLANG, PASIR GUDANG AND PULAU PINANG. --MORE

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HE SAID PASIR GUDANG IN PARTICULAR WAS EXPERIENCING AN AMAZING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONTAINERS HANDLED AND LAST YEAR, IT RECORDED A 100 PER CENT RISE.

UNLESS MORE WHARFS WERE BUILT AT THE PORT, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FACE THE PROBLEM OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF INVESTORS AS THE PORT IS EXPECTED TO HANDLE AN ADDITIONAL 150,000 CONTAINERS A YEAR MAINLY TO EXPORT PRODUCTS OF NEW INDUSTRIES LOCATED IN THE AREA, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE RAILWAY SYSTEM IN THE KLANG VALLEY WAS NO LONGER ADEQUATE TO TRANSPORT GOODS AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BUILD A DOUBLE RAILWAY TRACK COVERING PORT KLANG, RAWANG, SEREMBAN AND KUALA LUMPUR.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO STUDYING WHETHER THE WATER SUPPLY ESPECIALLY TO THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS WAS SUFFICIENT.

+ALL THESE (DEVELOPMENT) ARE VERY EXCITING AND CHALLENGING TO THE GOVERNMENT+, HE SAID AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD PLAY ITS PART.--MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE MALAYSIAN INCORPORATED CONCEPT HAD BEEN FULLY ACCEPTED AND HOPED THAT SUCH A COOPERATION WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WOULD ALSO BE ACHIEVED AMONG WORKERS AND THE EMPLOYEES.

+I HAVE SUGGESTED THAT COMPANY SET UP WORKERS MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SO THAT WORKERS ARE INVOLVED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IN THE RUNNING OF THE COMPANY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS PRESIDENT ZAINAL RAMPAK MISUNDERSTOOD HIM WHEN HE (ENCIK ZAINAL) SUGGESTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CHAIR THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHAT HE HAD SAID WAS A COUNCIL BE SET UP IN EVERY COMPANY AND NOT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIONS.

--BERNAMA
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