

D174

U E652 A A E
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT R R R

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 6 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE NEW INCENTIVES AND MORE FAVOURABLE TAXES FOR FOREIGN MULTATIONALS TO ESTABLISH THEIR ASIA-PACIFIC OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN THIS COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WANTS MORE FOREIGNERS TO COME TO MALAYSIA WITH THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING EXPERTISE TO BE COMBINED WITH ITS LOCAL RESOURCES AND LABOUR AND THIS COMBINATION WOULD YIELD +HIGH PROFITS+ FOR BOTH PARTIES.

OPENING THE +WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: NATIONAL MEETING ON MALAYSIA+ HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA IS HIGHLY CAPABLE OF WELCOMING HORE FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE.

THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKE MALAYSIA,-AN ATTRACTIVE AND LESS COSTLY PLACE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS, HE TOLD THE FORUM ATTENDED BY ABOUT 80 TOP-LEVEL EXECUTIVES INCLUDING 40 FOREIGNERS, MAINLY FROM EUROPE.

MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE FROM THE BUSINESS CIRCLE. OTHERS INCLUDED SENIOR MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE TWO-DAY MEETING AIMED AT EXPLORING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN MALAYSIA, IS ORGANISED BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, AN INDEPENDENT AND NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED IN SWITZERLAND IN 1971. -- MORE

1423MST 06 11 8 9

D181

U E658 A A E
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT 2 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

THE GENEVA-BASED WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IS AIMED AT CREATING INTERACTION AMONG LEADERS IN BUSINESS, POLITICS AND ACADEMICIANS AND IS KNOWN FOR ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DESCRIBED THE MEETING ON MALAYSIA AS TIMELY AS THE LAST SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON MALAYSIA WAS HELD THREE YEARS AGO AND THE COUNTRY HAD MADE GREAT STRIDES SINCE THEN.

THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE AT LENGTH ON VARIOUS GOVERNMENT POLICIES, INCENTIVES AND OTHER ADVANTAGES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT HERE INCLUDING THE LOW COST OF LIVING AND HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE. HE ALSO PROVIDED DETAILS ON THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH SINCE 1980.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS APPROACHING 1990 WITH CONFIDENCE AND IT IS CONVINCED THAT THE REGION WOULD BE A CENTRE OF GROWTH IN THE NEXT DECADE.

+UE STAND READY TO MOVE FORWARD TO THE NEXT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT... THROUGH THE FORGING OF REALISTIC PARTNERSHIPS AND THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED,+ HE SAID. --MORE

1436MST 0 6 11 8 9

0203

U E674 AAE
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT 3 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH THE PAST TWO YEARS HAD WAS RAPID WITH LAST YEAR'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT STANDING AT 8.7 PER CENT, WAS THE HIGHEST WITHIN THE DECADE.

THIS YEAR'S GROWTH IS EXPECTED TO BE BETWEEN SEVEN AND EIGHT PER CENT WHILE GROWTH FOR NEXT YEAR IS LIKELY TO BE MODERATE TO NO LESS THAN 6.5 PER CENT, WHICH IS CONSIDERED HIGH BY ANY INTERNATIONAL STANDARD IN TODAY'S WORLD, HE ADDED.

DESCRIBING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC EXPANSION AS BROAD-BASED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EXPANDED BY 17.6 PER CENT LAST YEAR WHILE AGRICULTURE AND MINING CONTINUED TO EXPAND STEADILY.

HE ADDED THAT THE HIGHLY-POTENTIAL TOURISM SECTOR, AND RELATED INDUSTRIES WERE ALSO PROJECTED TO ENJOY +HIGH GROWTH+ IN THE 1990'S.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA'S CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REMAINED STRONG AND ANTICIPATED THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL RESERVES TO RISE ABOVE US\$7.5 BILLION AT THE END OF THE YEAR. -- MORE

1523MST 06 11 89

D207

U E676 AAE
MAHATHIR-INVESTMENT 4 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS RAPIDLY EXPANDING ITS SHIPPING AND AIRLINE FLEETS, INSURANCE SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION.

HE TOLD THE FORUM THAT MALAYSIA ENCOURAGES FLEXIBILITY IN WAGE DETERMINATION AND THE COUNTRY ADOPTED A WAGE SYSTEM WHICH ENCOURAGES PRODUCTIVITY.

THIS HE SAID WAS TO ENSURE MALAYSIA REMAINED COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONALLY.

ON UNEMPLOYMENT, HE SAID IT HAD BEGUN TO SHOW +CLEAR SIGNS+ OF MODERATING. MUCH OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT WAS STRUCTURAL IN NATURE AND WOULD REQUIRE SOME TIME TO RESOLVE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID INFLATION WAS EXPECTED TO BE HIGHER BUT WOULD NOT EXCEED FOUR PER CENT THIS YEAR. IT WAS 2.5 PER CENT LAST YEAR.

THIS IS HOWEVER LOW BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO KEEP THE INFLATION RATE LOW, HE ADDED.

HE LATER HELD A CLOSE-DOOR DIALOGUE WITH THE PARTICIPANTS.

--BERNAMA

1531MST 06 11 89