

Unit set up to hear grouses

By ADLİN M. ZABRI

A SPECIAL unit has been set up in the Prime Minister's Department to receive complaints or suggestions from investors. The unit will be directly responsible to the Prime Minister and whatever action that needs to be taken as a result of the complaints or suggestions will be taken.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the unit, presently comprising two staff, will send out questionnaires soon to all companies in strict confidence. This is to give confidence to the investors to submit "genuine" opinions. This will also enable the Government to obtain inputs from the industry sector.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Matsushita Television Company plant in Shah Alam, he said investors should submit both criticisms and suggestions that can help improve the investment climate in Malaysia.

He said nobody should be fearful that they will be discriminated against or victimised for giving criticism. The Government wants honest answers so that it can take action on any shortcomings and overcome any problems. All opinions will be treated in strictest confidence.

Earlier, opening the plant he urged investors to avail themselves of the new complaints facility and not wait to be

THE Government will place emphasis on the learning of the Japanese language among workers and executives directly involved in the country's industrialisation, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said that the workers' command of the language need not be very good but executives should master the language for their job requirement.

The Government will provide several facilities for them to learn the language, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said in opening Matsushita Television Company in Shah Alam.

He said that government officers had been encouraged to learn Japanese and hoped that Japanese firms will assist in this effort. Local workers and executives should view this effort positively, he said, pointing out the move is not aimed at turning them into Japanese.

"If we want to progress and be successful, we should learn from those who have progressed and become successful. There is nothing more effective in learning about how others have succeeded than to understand their language," he said.

asked by the unit. "It is there to serve you." The unit is part of the Government's continuing effort to make the country as attractive as possible to investors.

The Government, he said, will continue to offer incentives and tax exemption facilities for investors following an analysis. One of the most effective ways of reducing unemployment is through the rapidly expanding manufacturing sector.

He said the sector had succeeded in creating far more employment opportunities than the other sectors in the last few years and it will continue to play a

major role in government efforts to reduce unemployment.

On views that even if the Government cuts back a little on the existing investment incentives, foreign investments will still continue to flow in, he said: "If we see this investment trend from an international perspective, we can see that our country is involved in stiff competition with others, particularly with certain Asean nations, in securing foreign investment."

He added that Malaysia's neighbours had succeeded in achieving remarkable

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economic progress particularly in industrial development.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said as such, any study on whether Malaysia has provided adequate investment facilities, too much, or too little, should take into account developments in other countries, particularly in the South-East Asian region.

"The view that incentives are only given to investors is not correct. The number of people who will be unemployed if the factories close down should also be taken into account," he added.

The Prime Minister said the manufacturing sector, for the first time, is expected to account for 25 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year. Similarly, exports of manufactured goods this year are expected to account for nearly 55 per cent of the country's total exports, the first time it will account for more than 50 per cent of total exports.

The Government will continue to provide appropriate incentives to the manufacturing sector. It hopes that the sector will account for about 40 per cent of the GDP by the end of the 20th century.

According to the Prime Minister, for the first seven months of this year, total investments approved by the Government was valued at almost \$6 billion, an increase of 34 per cent compared with the same period last year.