

aae tbe  
MAHATHIR WOOS U.S. BUSINESSMEN

Mahathir - business  
From Syed Jamil Jaafar

NEW YORK, Sept 26<sup>9</sup> (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad Wednesday invited American businessmen to come to Malaysia to see for themselves the business and investment opportunities offered by the country instead of being influenced by distorted media reports about the country.  
*DUNSEA TRPS.*

He said that if some of the media reports were to be believed, Malaysia was a terrible place and its leaders were all corrupt.

+All these are not true. How can Malaysia be a terrible place to put money in when its economic growth rates have been at nine to ten per cent and inflation kept at two per cent?+ the Prime Minister said.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Malaysia-United States Private Sector Consultative Group here, he said when he visited a particular project in Malaysia, it was not because he had a vested or invested interest in it.

+It gives me a great fillip to see things growing in Malaysia, to see the nation progress,+ he said. -- more

♥26/09/10-22MST

CNS9252

U GE 26-09 00136 EA897

aae tbe

Mahathir - business 2 New York

He also dismissed any notion of cronyism in the award of contracts in Malaysia.

+But of course we have to be selective. You can't give one million dollars to a trishaw puller and expect him to manage it,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia would like to see more American investments in the country as it did want not to confine its economic ties to only one or two countries or be too dependent on the Japanese.

He said it was no accident that Malaysia was stable and doing well economically.

+We have adopted a pragmatic approach and are not interested in ideologies and have from the beginning rejected communism and socialism,+ he said.-- more

♥26/09/10-25MST

CNS9253

U GE 26-09 00152 EA898

aae tbe

Mahathir - business 3 New York

The country's policies were also flexible enough to take into account the views of foreign investors.

The Malaysia-United States Private Sector Consultative Group was organised by former U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger and M.R. Greenberg, Chairman of the American International Group Inc.

Consisting of a select group of chief executive officers from both Malaysia and the U.S., the group is dedicated to increasing trade and investments between the two countries.

The group later went into a closed-door session to discuss specific subjects.

The Malaysian side was led by Petronas President Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin who is chairman of the Malaysian sector of the group.

Arab-Malaysia Merchant Bank Chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim presented a paper on Labuan as an International Offshore Financial Centre at the session. -- Bernama