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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has assured Singapore investors that they are welcome to put their money in all sectors in Malaysia.

No sector was considered +sensitive+ where investments by Singaporeans were barred, he added.

He gave the assurance at a two-hour meeting with a high-level investment mission from Singapore at his office here, the first meeting between the Prime Minister and a business delegation from Singapore.

Singapore Director of International and Policy Studies, Prof Tommy Koh, who led the 24-member delegation told reporters on emerging from the meeting that, there was no political sensitivity involved pertaining to the kind of investment allowed from Singapore.

+The bottom line is, we have heard from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir a strong reiteration of the warm welcome Malaysia will extend to Singapore investment, +he said.

He added that the policy applied to both government.. and' non-government, companies. -- more

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He said Malaysia's reiteration of this policy was very important. +for our business leaders to hear+.

The delegation was given the same assurance by Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim when they attended a briefing at his office yesterday.

Prof Koh said the Prime Minister mentioned three sectors' -- manufacturing, tourism and services industry -- as areas that Singapore businessmen could venture into.

But, he did not exclude other sectors or consider any sector as sensitive where Singapore investment. would not be welcome, he added.

According to Prof Koh, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told the businessmen that Malaysia would not face any problem in financing development projects under the Sixth Malaysia Plan as the government, intended to mobilise domestic! savings and supplementing it with some external hot-rowing. -- more

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Singapore Trade Development Board chairman Alan C.Y. Yeo expressed confidence that Singapore investment in Malaysia would increase as a result of the meeting with the Prime Minister.

+Trade between the two countries is growing at a very high rate and I would not be surprised. that in a few more years Malaysia would. be, Singapore's number one trading partner,+ he said.

Encik Yeo, who is also Chairman and Managing Director of Yeo Hiap Seng Limited, one of the region's largest food and softdrink manufacturers, said it. was now up to the business leaders to decide on the next move.

Singapore Manufacturers Association president, Robert Chua Teck Chew said the meeting enabled the republic's businessmen to know the kind of investment Malaysia would like to attract. to fulfill its objectives of becoming a developed country by the year 2020.

+We now have a better understanding of Malaysia's investment. policy and priorities and we can go back feeling a lot more confident about encouraging more Singapore.. investors to invest here, +he added. -- Bernama