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PM: MSIA'S CRITICISM OF WESTERN GOVTS WILL NOT AFFECT INVESTMENT INFLOW

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad says Malaysia's criticism of western governments and environmental groups will not jeopardise foreign investment inflow into the country.

He said that this was because foreign investors and businessmen alike were more interested in the conducive environment and security Malaysia could offer in safeguarding their investments.

To this end, he said the government has always stressed on strong laws such as the Internal Security Act in efforts to ensure political stability which prevents people from misbehaving themselves besides protecting the cordial race relations prevailing in a multi-ethnic society like Malaysia.

"If people take to the streets, then foreign businessmen will not come and invest here," he said when responding to questions during a panel discussion on +Privatisation - The Next Generation, the challenges ahead,+ organised jointly by PNB Corporate Development Sdn Bhd and the Association of Merchant Banks in Malaysia.

Dr. Mahathir was asked by a floor member whether investors from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and other European countries would refrain from coming here since he was very critical of their governments on certain issues such as the environment. -- more

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PM: MSIA'S CRITICISM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

Only last week, he had also criticised that the United Nations General Assembly was not exercising democracy when a few superpowers could veto decisions made by the entire UN membership.

From his meetings with foreign businessmen, he said what they wanted was industrial peace which was why in-house unions in the country's electronics industry were better off for the nation than independent ones.

"It is better off living in a country full of investments than in one with no investments all because the union is so strong that it always organised strikes which caused industrial disharmony," he added.

Dr. Mahathir also said that some of the so-called ecological groups which criticised Malaysia and claimed to fight for the environment were actually "agitated by their own political motives."

Malaysia, he said, was not worried about that, adding that despite being a small nation, it was able to offer multi-million ringgit contracts to foreign businessmen and "if they are not nice to us, we will not give them the contracts." --Bernama

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