

PM: GOOD TIME TO RELOCATE

5 27 NOV 1993
By ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for a second wave of relocation of Japanese industries to the country.

He said that with the continued lower overall cost and high productivity of local labour, such relocation should help Japanese industries overcome both the yen's appreciation and recession in Japan.

And although industries in Japan were not doing well, their operations in Malaysia remained profitable.

In this context, the Prime Minister urged the Japanese to consider new products with high engineering contents when in the past they had concentrated on electronics and domestic appliances.

Dr Mahathir suggested that machine tools and precision products should do well in Malaysia in view of the speed with which Malaysians picked up new skills.

Addressing the Japanese Chamber of Trade and Industry Malaysia (JACTIM) 10th anniversary dinner last night, he said such products would also require fewer labour inputs and with a little bit of in-house training, the workers would soon acquire the necessary skill.

"Although they would cost more than less highly-skilled workers in labour intensive industries, they would still cost much

● TURN TO PAGE 2

we will
react
swiftly,
PM tells
investors

27 NOV 1993
● FROM PAGE ONE

less than Japanese workers," he said.

Dr Mahathir gave an assurance that the Government would react quickly and positively to the changing needs of industrialisation and economy.

He said the country had performed well in the face of the worldwide economic slowdown.

Political stability and skilled and diligent workforce had attracted significant inflow of foreign investments, he said.

To compete with countries that offered cheap labour, Dr Mahathir said, the Government tried to improve the efficiency of its machinery.

He was happy to note that Japan's proposed investment for last year was the third largest in the country.

Dr Mahathir urged JACTIM to make known the improvements to government machinery efficiency.

He said these moves had already yielded results. Ports, airports, highways, telecommunications and electricity were now more efficient and more able to cope with investors' needs.