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Mahathir - Taiwan

DON'T BE AFRAID TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA, MAHATHIR TO TAIWAN INVESTORS

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MELAKA, June 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today foreign investors particularly those from Taiwan should have no fear about investing in Malaysia. He said it does not oppress the Chinese community.

Some of the Taiwan investors had such fear and even considered Malaysia unsuitable for their investment because in the past there had been reports which depicted Malaysia as a country facing the problem of racial conflicts.

"However Taiwanese investors who came to Malaysia found the reports to be not true and there were no racial conflicts or oppression against the Chinese community," Dr Mahathir said when opening the RM1, 200 million Ornasteel Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd factory at Air Keroh, near here.

"We are not like other countries which oppress the Chinese community and we treat everyone equally. We support the opening of Chinese schools and there are no restrictions against the Chinese community," he said.

The Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah and Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik were among the dignitaries present. -- more

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According to Dr Mahathir the Chinese community was the most prosperous in the world and there were Malaysian Chinese who were very much involved in business activities both locally and overseas.

He said Taiwan had contributed much to Malaysia's development and industrialisation process through its investment which at one time was the highest when compared to that from other countries.

Malaysia at one time was merely a raw material producer such as tin and this could not contribute towards Malaysia becoming an industrialised nation.

Hence Malaysia sought a "short cut" and invited foreign investors bringing along with them heavy and modern technology.

"At present many investors from Europe, Japan, Taiwan, the United States and Australia and in fact from the nearly the whole world have invested in Malaysia and have directly contributed towards its development," Dr Mahathir said. -- more

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"No one who wants to work need be unemployed in Malaysia. At present more than one million foreigners have come to Malaysia either legally or illegally to work in this country because the wages offered are very much higher than in their own countries," Dr Mahathir said.

"The presence of these foreigners in itself proved Malaysia's success," he said.

"The presence of foreign investors have more than ever convinced us that our vision to emerge as a developed nation by the year 2020 will be realised," the Prime Minister said.

Responding to questions from Taiwan journalists covering the event, Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian Government welcomed the "Look South" policy of the Taiwan Government as it would draw more investors from Taiwan to invest in Malaysia.

"I hope that Ornasteel Corporation will help enhance the skills of local workers in the area of high technology," Dr Mahathir added. --
Bernama ARA AAM

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