

16 DEC 1996
NCCIM-Yahya
NCCIM SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT STAND AT WTO

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- The National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) has expressed support for the government's stand at the recent World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in rejecting the disguised protectionism advocated by the developed countries.

NCCIM president Tan Sri Yahya Ahmad said tonight that the developed nations had tried to link various contentious issues, including labour standards, government procurement procedures, investment rules and competition rules to trade.

On the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), he said Malaysia, a major exporter and importer of IT products, had reflected its selflessness towards the majority economies by pursuing the opinions and rights of developing and least-developed countries in determining their import tariffs on IT products.

The NCCIM also lauded the position taken by Prime Minister by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Manila, which has protected not only Malaysia's economic and trade interests but also those of other developing economies, Yahya said at the NCCIM and Malaysia Incorporated dinner at a hotel here.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali attended the dinner.

The NCCIM was confident that the strategies spelt out in the Second Industrial Master Plan would rapidly transform the industrial sector into a sector with a broader base and greater sophistication, Yahya said.

He expressed the chamber's appreciation and gratitude to the government for providing a very conducive environment for the private sector and business community to grow and prosper.

"We are fortunate to have a very stable government, along with a visionary pro-business leadership and highly dynamic economic programmes, which has provided us the basic parameters for our country to continuously develop," he said.

Later, Dr Mahathir presented prizes to the winners of yesterday's Malaysia Incorporated Golf Tournament between the private and the public sectors.

It was won by the public sector.

Four Lotus cars put up as prizes for hole-in-one achievements in the golf tournament were given to Bakti because there were no winners.

Siti Hasmah, who is Bakti chairperson, received a Lotus car from Yahya to symbolise the acceptance.

She also received a RM100,000 cheque for the Bakti building, which was presented by Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Abdul Halim Ali, the tournament organising chairman. -- BERNAMA

JM YBY