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Mahathir-Study

M'SIAN CASE STUDY ON KYRGYZ UNLIKE IMF'S OR WB'S

By: Rachman Nordin

BISHKEK, July 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia's approach when doing a case study on the Kyrgyz Republic will be unlike that adopted by the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank for similar studies for developing countries.

+Our idea is to identify the root causes and just make them known to the Kyrgyz government and from then on it is up to them to do what they like with the findings,+ he told a press conference for Malaysian and Kyrgyz journalists here on the outcome of his first official visit to the republic.

In contrast, he said, international agencies normally try to identify areas where the government had gone wrong and instruct it to rectify matters.

When these instructions were not carried out pressure might be brought upon the government, he said when elaborating on Malaysia's offer to do a case study on the Kyrgyz Republic's economic, social and judicial systems to find new ways for both countries to work together.

He said this was the first time that Malaysia had made such an offer to any developing country and the Kyrgyz government +welcomed it with open hands+.

Replying to questions, Dr Mahathir said one major problem that the Kyrgyz Republic would face in transforming to a market economy from a centrally planned one would be the lack of in-depth knowledge of the workings of a market economy itself.

Malaysia would propose to recommend measures to overcome these problems to the extent that it knew, especially based on Malaysia's own experience, he said.

+Some countries try to switch overnight but later they find out that they don't have enough people to do the work. Some countries tried privatisation when there is no private sector,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir also assured Kyrgyz journalists who posed questions at the press conference that the Kyrgyz Republic would definitely be part of the +second Silk Route+ in the context of Malaysia's proposal for a Trans Asian Railway to link Southeast Asia and the central Asian states.

He described his visit as a +very good one indeed+ and that he and president Askar Akayev had identified several areas of cooperation, including in gold mining involving the Malaysian Mining Corporation and its Kyrgyz counterpart agency.

The prime minister leaves for Kazakhstan tomorrow for the second leg of his official visit to the two central Asian republics. -- BERNAMA

RN YBY