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PM-Dialogue

EMIGRANT MALAYSIANS WELCOMED TO RETURN HOME TO WORK

By: K.C.Leong

LOS ANGELES, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Emigrant Malaysians are welcome to work in Malaysia where they will be given the same treatment as other expatriates, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Malaysians who had given up their citizenship would not face discrimination should they elect to look for jobs in Malaysia, he told some 400 Malaysian students and the Malaysian community in California at the Al-Khattab Mosque here.

The Prime Minister, who is leading about 150 Malaysian businessmen and government officials, is on a week-long mission to promote the Multimedia Supercorridor (MSC) to potential American investors in California.

Malaysia was currently facing full employment forcing employers to hire foreign workers. "So, there's no necessity to discriminate against ex-Malaysians who can contribute to the Malaysian economy," Dr Mahathir said responding to a question from a former Malaysian citizen who emigrated to California 20 years ago.

He also dismissed speculation that he was interested in becoming the United Nations Secretary-General, saying, "I'm not interested at all. I'm too old to leave the country." His remarks were greeted with laughter from the audience.

The Prime Minister also urged Malaysian students to join clubs to meet other Malaysian students as well as to interact with the locals so that they could learn about their culture and master the English language.

He voiced his disappointment with students who only mingled with students from their own states and returned home neither knowing about America nor being able to speak English well.

He called on the students to master English and other foreign languages since Malaysian businesses were expanding globally.

On the Internet, Dr Mahathir said that the government was not in favour of censorship, but would not hesitate to act if a criminal act was conducted through the Internet.

He also hoped that the International community would adopt an international standard for Internet users that would ban pornography or material that incited hatred, prejudice or other criminal acts online.

He said countries like Germany had already taken action to ban the transmission of pornography over the internet.

Dr Mahathir later broke his fast and performed Maghrib prayers with the Malaysian community.

Earlier, he toured the Todd-AO Studios in Hollywood, a post-production house for movies and television series.

The Prime Minister was shown how sound, dialogue and music are mixed for the upcoming movie "Dante Speaks," starring Pierce Brosnan. He was also given a personal tour of the studio where he learned about the creation of tornadoes using special effects in a digital studio.

Todd-AO and Infra Kekal later signed a memorandum of understanding witnessed by the Prime Minister. The MOU calls for them to collaborate in developing potential market for Todd-AO products and restoring old Malaysian audio and video products such as P. Ramlee classics through the use of digital technology, Managing Director of Infra Kekal, Zait Mohd. Isa said.-- BERNAMA

KC AAM