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FOREIGN FUND MANAGERS CONFIDENT MSIA'S FUNDAMENTALS STILL INTACT: DAIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Foreign fund managers are still confident that Malaysia's fundamentals are still intact and that there is no cause for concern, said the economic adviser to the government, Tun Daim Zainuddin, today.

"We will continue to meet them and have so far cleared their doubts about the country's current account deficit and the so-called mega projects.

"They now understand and we will continue to listen to the voice of the business community," he told reporters after launching the "Malaysia Today", publication by Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli), here.

The Malaysian government is based on constant consultation, said Daim, adding that the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will in fact be meeting several fund managers over this weekend.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is scheduled to attend a dialogue with fund managers here tomorrow while Daim had met with several funds managers last week.

On Anwar's announcement last night, he said: "I thought they were good.

"Don't expect him to give details just as yet, then he will have nothing to say on Budget day."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, had outlined several measures aimed at easing inflationary pressures and reducing the current account deficit, which included a two percent cut in expenditure.

Others were deferment of decisions on privatisation of government projects and a review of large purchases of foreign goods by government agencies including the Armed Forces.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Daim said misinformation has led to confusion about the state of the economy.

He said good and accurate information is of paramount importance to meet the needs of the population at large and in particular, the business and international communities.

Daim said as Malaysia continues to reach greater economic height and play a pivotal role in the international scene, genuine interest and the search for accurate information about Malaysia becomes more complex and varied.

He noted that the currency crisis and the decline in the stock market will not lead Malaysia into a recession.

He underlined that economic fundamentals remained strong and "our strength and resilience will see us through this temporary blimp."

Daim said the present situation is of a transient nature.

"What is important is that we should not lose confidence of the present system and take a long term view of the economy," he added. -- BERNAMA

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