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Herzog-Investment

HERZOG ASSURES CONTINUED GERMAN INVESTMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- German industrialists and businessmen will continue to invest considerably in Malaysia because of the country's political and financial stability, visiting German President Prof Dr Roman Herzog said today.

"The assurance was given to me during my discussions with representatives of the German business community in this country," he told a news conference here on the third day of his state visit.

The German business community had indicated satisfaction with conditions and incentives by the Malaysian government, he said.

Tomorrow morning Herzog leaves for Sarawak before winding up his visit to Malaysia.

Herzog said trade between Germany and Malaysia amounted to DM9 billion a year (RM12.6 billion) and direct investment by German companies operating in Malaysia amounted to DM4 billion (RM5.6 billion).

Herzog said wide opportunities were available for German industrialists and businessmen in Malaysia who needed no further introduction as the country was already well-known to Germans.

"But I encourage them to be more forward-looking in their undertakings and what they need is to have a vision," he said.

Asked whether there were obstacles blocking enhancement of existing trade relations between the two countries, Herzog said: "I must say I am not an expert, as whenever such obstacles exist in any particular country, it must be due to administration".

"But in Malaysia, I have not heard of any complaints from representatives of German businessmen here who instead had voiced their satisfaction," he said.

Herzog said Malaysia's position as an important member of Asean was of great importance in fostering good relations with Europe.

He was glad there were no political problems to be solved between the two countries which had always maintained cordial relations.

On his talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Herzog said they had fruitful discussions and he regarded the premier as a spokesman of the Asian world.

"During my talk with Dr Mahathir, I have been able to understand his Vision 2020, the Super Multimedia Corridor which is very interesting to me and other issues which fascinated me," he said.

Herzog said he had high regards for Dr Mahathir whom he described as a man of vision as demonstrated by the country's development programmes outlined in his Vision 2020.

"We in Germany too should learn something from Vision 2020 and I think our businessmen should have a vision of their own in order to be more successful in their endeavour," he said.

On Dr Mahathir's interest to obtain Germany's assistance in providing professional training for qualified craftsmen and technicians, Herzog assured that the matter would be seriously considered.

Herzog said he was impressed with the visit to Institut Kefahaman Islam (IKIM) where he opened a dialogue session on the importance of global understanding of different religions and cultures. -- BERNAMA

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