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Mahathir-Ariston

MAHATHIR CONFIRMS PLEDGE ON ARISTON INVESTMENT FROM HUN SEN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today confirmed that he had received a letter from Cambodia's Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen regarding the investment by Ariston Sdn Bhd in that country.

"Yes, I have received a letter from Hun Sen assuring that there is no problem there," he told reporters after a meeting with German President Roman Herzog, here.

He was commenting on a report several days ago that Hun Sen had written a letter to him criticising the action by Co-Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh in declaring several agreements involving Ariston as null and void.

"This is their internal problem and we believe the matter can be settled among themselves.

"I believe the Cambodian leadership is a responsible one although there will certainly be differences in opinion...we hope the matter can be resolved," he said.

In the letter, Hun Sen had assured Dr Mahathir that the agreements were still legitimate. The agreement was part of the plans by Ariston to develop Sihanoukville town as a tourist destination worth RM3.25 billion.

On his meeting with Herzog, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was keen to establish cooperation with Germany in education and technology-oriented training.

He said Germany had an interesting education system as it emphasised on practical aspects.

Asked whether Malaysia would send its students to Germany, Dr Mahathir said: "Yes, they already have places using English as the medium of instruction, so we can send (our students there)."

Both leaders exchanged ideas on several matters including bilateral relations, Asean relations with Europe and Myanmar.

Herzog arrived here yesterday for a five-day visit. -- BERNAMA

MAM AO