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Malaysian businessmen urged to invest in Jordan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Malaysian industrialists were today urged to exploit investment opportunities in Jordan.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said although Jordan is said to be in a "volatile" area, its economic environment is stable and conducive.

"With its vibrant economy, Malaysian industrialists can use their opportunities there as a launching pad to enhance economic ties with neighbouring Arab countries," Anwar said when hosting a luncheon for Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Majali at the Nikko Hotel today.

He commended Dr Abdel's efforts in promoting peace with Israel and its neighbouring countries.

Accompanying the Deputy Prime Minister was his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Cabinet Ministers present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Acting Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

Among the others present were Datuk Dr Affifudin Omar (Deputy Finance Minister); Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad (Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister); Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Minister in Attendance/Deputy Human Resources Minister); Tan Sri Clifford Herbert (Finance Ministry secretary-general); Tan Sri Ali Abdul Hassan Sulaiman (director-general of the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department) and Datuk Deva Mohamed Ridzam, Under Secretary (West Asia, Africa and the Organisation of Islamic Conference) at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Dr Abdel, who is also Jordan's Defence Minister, arrived last week to attend the three-day Langkawi International Dialogue '97 - the international smart partnership forum which ended on Wednesday.

Malaysian industrialists invited to attend the luncheon were Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli (Malaysia Airlines chairman and Malay Chamber of Commerce president); Tan Sri Mohamed Hassan Marican (Petronas president/chief-executive officer); Tan Sri Dr Shamsuddin Abdul Kadir (Sapura Holdings executive chairman); Tan Sri Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah (chairman, Land and General Bhd); Tan Sri Halim Saad (Renong Berhad executive chairman); Tan Sri Kishu T. Jethanand (Globe Silk Store); Datuk Khalid Ahmad (Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad executive chairman) and Datuk Rozali Ismail (executive chairman, Puncak Niaga (M) Sdn Bhd).

The Jordanian leader who headed a delegation of senior Cabinet Ministers, commenced his three-day official visit to the country, beginning Wednesday, to reciprocate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Jordan three years ago.

Among those from his delegation present at today's luncheon were Dr Suleiman Hafez (Finance Minister); Dr Ashraf Kurdi (Health Minister); Maamoun NourEddin (director of the Prime Minister's Office). Also present was Jordanian Ambassador to Malaysia Luay M. Al Khashman.

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