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Mahathir-managers

SERIOUS FOREIGN FUND MANAGERS IN TOWN, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the fund managers who are in town now are serious investors who would like to see shares appreciate.

"They have gone back to the market, no doubt about that," he told reporters after the second day of the Umno general assembly here.

More than 12 foreign fund managers, who met Economic Adviser to the government Tun Daim Zainuddin, yesterday and today, have expressed interest to re-enter the stock market.

Another meeting is scheduled for Monday.

"Unlike the manipulators who played around with the market to make gains for themselves, these fund managers are serious investors in the stock market," the prime minister said.

"They do not like to see the shares go down because they bought them at a higher price. If the shares go down, they will lose money. So...they would like to see the shares appreciate," he said.

The prime minister said Daim had met the fund managers to explain the market's real situation and the action taken by the government.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that despite the lifting of the designated status on the 100 Composite-Index-linked counters, the government still prohibited short-selling and would not allow banks to lend shares or guarantee to deliver the shares, nor any form of manipulation.

Short-selling is the selling of shares which one does not own with the hope of buying them at a cheaper price later.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was asked on the revision of a portion of the current account deficit to that of the Gross National Products (GNP) from 5.5 per cent to 5.2 per cent.

Anwar, who is also finance minister said: "The analysis has not been completed." -- BERNAMA

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