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SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO OVERCOME MANIPULATION OF RINGGIT AND SHARES

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- A special committee, made up of local corporate figures, has been set up to overcome the manipulation of ringgit and the stock market by foreign fund managers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The corporate figures have given their co-operation to the government by coming out with views and approaches which could be taken to settle the problems, he said.

"They have approached me to give views and advice and to take part in a committee which we have set up to address the problems," Dr Mahathir said.

He said this in a special interview with RTM ahead of the UMNO general assemble, which was recorded recently.

Dr Mahathir said the government did not propose to take action on locals who took advantage of the situation by assisting foreign funds to short sell until the stock market sentiment was weakened.

"There is no need for the government to take action on something committed before it was prohibited," he said in reference to short selling which was previously allowed by the government but made unlawful last week.

"Yes, prior to this, there were those who often hedged their positions. But now this is prohibited and they should adhere to such a decision," he added.

The prime minister was also asked on reports that the Sultan of Brunei, through Brunei Investment Agency, had bought ringgit and the Singapore dollar, to support the value of both currencies.

"If this is true, we are grateful. Officially I'm not aware of it," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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