

# Support our stock market, Mahathir urges investors

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KUCHING: Stock market investors have been asked not to make a fast buck out of the stock market as it is bad for the business and the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said they should keep their stocks as long-term investments and wait until the stock index goes up further before deciding to dispose of them.

"Please don't take profits and sell (the shares) because you can make a few sen.

"Support our stock market because it is your stock market and it is your companies involved. You can help each other by boosting the share

market," the Prime Minister said at the opening of the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia's 52nd annual general meeting at Kuching Hilton yesterday.

About 500 delegates, including 150 from the peninsula, attended the meeting.

Describing profit-taking for a little gain as a bad habit, Dr Mahathir said traders could make more if they hold on to their shares until the KLSE index went up to 500 or 600 points.

He said when the share prices of companies went up, the problems of non-performing loans (NPLs) would disappear and this

would enable companies to carry out their business activities and prosper.

He said the share prices on the KLSE had appreciated now that illegal share markets could not operate.

"Today, our economy is doing quite well. The trade surplus has gone up and the balance of trade has improved," the Prime Minister said.

"More than RM12bil ringgit has been repatriated from abroad and we have enough funds in the country to lend to the business community."

Dr Mahathir urged businessmen to make full use of the banking facilities.