

# STILL KEEN

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## Dr M: Malaysia remains' attractive to investors.

By ZULKIFLY MOHAMAD

**KULIM:** Malaysia has remained an attractive investment hub for serious investors who continue to pump in billions of ringgit to set up industries in the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday big corporations such as Eastman, Procter and Gamble and petrochemical industries had invested a lot of money in factories here.

He said serious investors were still coming to Malaysia "in a big way" although the country was not spared from the economic turmoil in the region.

"Our political stability has been the main factor attracting foreign investors to set up industries here," he told a press conference after opening AIC Semiconductor Sdn Bhd at the Kulim High-Tech Industrial Park here.

Also present were Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Shaikh Fadzir and AIC Semiconductor executive chairman Haji Sarip Hamid.

The prime minister said unlike fund managers, the serious investors knew what was good for

them when they invested in industries here.

"In the case of fund managers, they roam from one country to another making investments only for instant gains," Dr Mahathir said, adding that investors would not want to pull out just because "certain people have lost confidence in the country."

"We are having a problem today with people who, for some reason or other, have lost confidence in Malaysia and have pulled out their capital only from the stock market.

"We know if they come here to invest for productive purposes, they will not pull out on the pretext of having lost confidence when, of course, they can still make a lot of money for themselves," he said.

Asked if measures taken by the Government were insufficient to overcome the problems, Dr Mahathir said if Malaysia could rely on them, other countries too could implement similar strategies to solve their problems.

However, he added, many countries were now under the manipulation of "unscrupulous investors" (fund managers) who caused their economies to collapse when they pulled out their capital.

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PM: M'sia welcomes productive foreign investors

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"We invited them earlier because we thought they could help us. Instead, they came, sold their shares, made profits and left," he said.

In his speech, the prime minister said the Government welcomed foreign investors for productive purposes.

He said the Government wanted everyone to carry the message abroad, especially among foreign investors, that they were welcome in Malaysia.

"We would like them to come here, make use of the environment, our workers, facilities and a friendly government so that they can make money for themselves and help towards the development of this country," he said.