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Ramli-Economy

ECONOMY WILL RECOVER EARLY NEXT YEAR - RAMLI

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Some foreign economists have predicted that the country's economy will recover early next year, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today.

This means Malaysia will be the first country in the region to recover from the economic downturn, and shows that the drastic action taken by the government to restore the economy has achieved the desired results, he said.

"All these points to the government's efficiency under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who took drastic measures without compromising the people's interests," he said at a meet-the-people session at Simpang Tiga, Pengkalan Chepa, here.

Calling on all Malaysians to give their undivided support to the Government, he said they should not be influenced by the anti-government "Reformasi" movement as that would worsen the economic situation.

The movement's activities, he said, would affect tourism and efforts to attract foreign investors to the country.

Earlier, when met by reporters at the Umno office here, Ramli denied reports that he had offered himself as a candidate for any party post in next year's Umno election, including the vice-presidency.

He had so far not made any decision about contesting in the election, said Ramli, who lost in the contest for the vice-president's post in the previous election.

He called on Umno members not to focus too much on party polls and instead concentrate their efforts on helping Dr Mahathir restore the economy.

-- BERNAMA