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Mahathir-Investors

FOREIGN INVESTORS TOLD TO REFRAIN FROM EXERTING POLITICAL INFLUENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia welcomes foreign investments but refuses to allow investors to use their economic power to exert political influence in the country.

"We do not want foreign investors to come to gain benefits only for themselves and even prepared to play a role in determining the leadership and other issues," he said.

It was not the business of the foreign investors to do so, said Dr Mahathir when launching the Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth's carnival to raise money for the National Special Fund at the Merdeka Square here.

Leaders of the 14 BN component parties were present at the launching of the one-day carnival.

Dr Mahathir said that foreign investors were welcomed to the country and make honest profits from their ventures but they should refrain from exerting political influence.

He said that the people in the country were capable of determining their own leaders.

"We are capable of managing our country politically," he said.

The Prime Minister said that Malaysia was peaceful and prosperous due to the efforts by the people in the country and not only because of foreign investments.

"Our own people can also help to assist the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this could be seen today when Malaysians responded to the call by the government and striving to free themselves from pressures to import goods by producing items for the domestic market, heading for local tourist destinations and buying local products.

"God Willing, we will manage our economy so that we will remain free and our independence will not be affected," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that it was the responsibility of all Malaysians to ensure the sovereignty and independence of the country.

He said that the people had proven their love and loyalty for the country by their willingness to contribute the best they could to the National Special Fund.

"With this attitude, we can protect our nation's sovereignty and independence so that we can revive our economy and attain developed nation status in 2020," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was not the amount contributed to the Fund that was important but the spirit to be of service to the nation.

"This proves that they are truly Malaysians and Malaysia is their country and if the country faces problems, they will be the ones to come forward to help," he said to the applause of a crowd of some 3,000 at the Merdeka Square.

Dr Mahathir said that the unity of Malaysians had further strengthened instead of being weakened by the economic crisis and pressures of foreign investors.

The Prime Minister said that the people could not be undermined by efforts to create disunity as they would join forces to prevent actions that could threaten unity and cause chaos in the country.

"That is why feelings of envy among the various races in the country could be overcome," he said, giving a reminder of the clashes that occurred in the former Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland.

He said that chaos and riots would not only result in the destruction of properties belonging to those involved in the riots but also public property and properties belonging to others.

Dr Mahathir said that the people must be alert against parties out to undermine their unity and resolve in the wake of the economic crisis.

"We have attained independence and we do not wish to be dominated anymore," he said.

At the launching, Dr Mahathir received contributions totalling RM3 million for the National Special Fund from BN component parties and the corporate sector.

-- BERNAMA

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