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Many nations interested in Dr Mahathir's `formula'

PENANG, Mon. - Many countries have expressed their interest to learn Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's "formula" for overcoming the current economic situation, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said last night.

He said many leaders were full of praise for Dr Mahathir's efforts to overcome the problems and had high hopes that the action taken by the Government would succeed.

"I have met leaders from many countries, including those badly hit by the attacks on their currencies and stock markets.

"Some were critical, some gave us advice while many more were hopeful that we will succeed because they want to learn our way to overcome the economic problem," he said when closing a three-day Made-in-Malaysia products exposition, organised by Jelutong Umno division, at the Pesta site in Sungai Nibong.

Also present were Jelutong Umno division chairman Abdul Rashid Ismail, State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Yahaya Abdul Hamid and State Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen.

Abdullah, who is also Member of Parliament for Kepala Batas, said Malaysia's actions were now bearing fruit and that the nation could expect a one per cent growth next year.

Abdullah added that although "outsiders" could weaken the nation's currency and stock market, they could not suppress the people's spirit of co-operation.

"In fact, we have become stronger as a nation and together, we can overcome any attempt to destroy our socio-economic and political stability."

He commended the Jelutong Umno division for its efforts to encourage Malaysians to buy local products and urged other divisions to emulate its efforts.

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