

02 MAR 1998

M'SIA WELCOMES MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT, SAYS MAHATHIR

PETALING JAYA, March 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia welcomes more foreign investment, including from Taiwan, to help boost the country's economy.

He was responding to a Taiwanese reporter who asked about Taiwan's role in supporting the presently-troubled economies of Asean, the nine-member regional grouping.

"We welcome Taiwanese investment in the past. I think if you can invest more, that will be very helpful indeed," Dr Mahathir said when approached by reporters after the opening session of the first National Smart Partnership Dialogue here today.

He said Malaysia had so far managed to avoid seeking assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because its government as well as its private sector had "not borrowed too much money in the past".

"We have been very strict in the administration of the finances of the nation, we have been very conservative.

"Nevertheless when the money (ringgit) devalued, of course we have problems because now we are poorer," he said.

The Taiwanese reporter further asked about future relationship between Malaysia and Taiwan.

To this Dr Mahathir replied: "We have a one China policy that has always been in place. As far as we are concerned, there is only one China but we have always have relations with Taiwan." -- BERNAMA

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