

03 SEP 1998

Anwar-Investment

TASK OF POLITICAL STABILITY NOT ASSIGNED TO JUST ONE PERSON

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's removal as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister will not affect the flow of foreign direct investments into Malaysia, Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today.

"This is because investors will have weighed several factors such as the supporting infrastructures towards political stability before investing in a particular country," she said.

The removal of any government functionary did not contribute to instability as the rest of the government functioned as one, she told reporters.

Rafidah said it was normal to see repercussions or ripples after such an issue "but as long as the people see that the task of political stability is not assigned to just one person, then it is alright."

"Any one man does not make a government. No one person should be the symbol of stability or anything. It is all teamwork," she said.

She said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would have weighed all the pros and cons before making the decision to remove Anwar.

She said Dr Mahathir's priority was to get the economy moving fast and all people should work towards that.

Rafidah said Umno's struggle was not based on individuals.

Its struggle was for the country and people's benefit, she said.

Political stability, Rafidah said, was not based on the popularity of just one person but how the whole government functioned.

-- BERNAMA

SHO SHY AAM