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Chamber-Economy

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONFIDENT OF CHINESE VOTES FOR GOV'T

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Two of the biggest Chinese business organisations in the country are confident that Chinese voters who are mostly businessmen would give their support to the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in the coming general election following the government's success at reviving the economy.

The two bodies are the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) and the Federation of Chinese Associations of Malaysia (FCAM).

Thirty representatives from both organisations held a meeting lasting almost an hour with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department, here today. Also present at the meeting were ACCCIM president Datuk Lim Guan Teik and FCAM president Datuk Chong Chin Shoong

Secretary of the ACCCIM and FCAM coordinating committee for the meeting, David Chua said the performance of the economy was a factor used as a yardstick by the Chinese voters in choosing a government.

"The performance of the economy is a factor. The Chinese community looks at the overall situation and have far-sighted perception and are confident that support for the government would continue to be maintained as at present," he told reporters after the meeting.

Chinese businessmen are confident that the national economy has recovered from the crisis and is heading towards more robust growth, he said, adding that both organisations are confident that the economic growth projection of five per cent next year can be achieved.

Chua, who is also ACCCIM deputy secretary general, said that through the meeting both organisations understood clearly the measures taken towards economic recovery such as the currency control and the positive effects achieved especially in the middle of the year and also for the long-term.

The economic growth figure of 4.3 per cent as announced in the 1999/2000 economic report was far higher than government estimates, he said, adding that it could be considered a conservative figure although actually it was much better.

On the discussion with the Prime Minister, Chua said representatives from both organisations exchanged views with Dr Mahathir on the current situation.

He said the Prime Minister also gave an explanation on the current situation and expressed hopes that the Chinese community would give solid support to the government so that they could join in the efforts to continue developing the country and maintain harmony.

At the meeting, he said, both organisations expressed the support of the Chinese business community to Dr Mahathir as the leader and hoped he would continue to lead the nation towards the new millennium.

Before the meeting, the ACCCIM and FCAM, in a statement, expressed their full support for all actions and measures taken by the government under the leadership of Dr Mahathir in tackling and facing the country's economic challenges as well as fighting all forms of threats to the national sovereignty, economy and leadership.

"We give our solid support to the government and will continue to strive and cooperate with the national leadership to achieve stability, peace and progress to bring the nation towards the new millennium and

meeting the aspiration of Vision 2020," the statement added.

--BERNAMA

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