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Envoy

ENVOY CALLS FOR END TO NEGATIVE VIEWS OF MALAYSIA

By: Neville D'Cruz

MELBOURNE, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's High Commissioner to Australia Datuk Adnan Othman last night called on foreigners and the foreign press to cease giving negative views of Malaysia.

Speaking at a Mederka Day dinner at the Malaysian-owned Eden on the Park Hotel here, Adnan said Malaysia, under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, had proved critics of its economic measures wrong and they should accept it.

"We have restored confidence, and our recovery is robust," he said.

"The (capital) controls have been successful because, among other things, it was a soft system, not draconian.

"Or course, we cannot convince all sceptics. At least our approach has brought about a recovery without saddling future generations with huge debts to the IMF."

Adnan said the present positive indicators augur well for the future of the Malaysian economy.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that Malaysia is finally out of the recession and that recovery will gain momentum. I hope it would put an end to any negative views that foreigners and the foreign press may have of the country," he said.

The popular High Commissioner quoted Clyde Prestowitz, president of the Washington-based Economic Strategy Institute, who said that despite the bad press, Malaysia was the best story compared with its neighbours in the region.

Adnan urged Australian investors to grab the many business opportunities that were available in Malaysia, especially in engineering, transport, healthcare, agro-based products, manufacturing and information technology sectors, particularly in software joint ventures in the Multimedia Super Corridor.

The dinner here last night, organised by the Australia-Malaysia Business Council (AMBC) was attended by about 230 people. AMBC dinners in Brisbane was attended by 520 people and Adelaide by 350 members and friends.

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