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Get overseas Chinese to invest here, traders urged

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BUKIT MERTAJAM, Mon. - Gerakan vice-president Dr Goh Cheng Teik wants Chinese businessmen in the country to persuade ethnic Chinese businessmen all over the world to support Malaysia by investing here.

He said businessmen from China, Taiwan, Brunei, Singapore, and other countries should be encouraged to invest here.

He expected the economy to recover this year and that confidence in the Government would be strengthened.

Goh was speaking at a New Year dinner organised by the Taman Alma Gerakan branch at the Bukit Mertajam Moral Uplifting Society Hall last night.

Among those present were State Gerakan vice-chairman and State Executive Councillor Dr Kang Chin Seng, secretary Dr Teng Hock Nan, State Executive Councillor Dr Toh Kin Woon, former State Gerakan chairman Datuk Tan Gim Hwa and branch chairman See Teik Chew.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is doing his utmost for the country. The Western media criticise him for introducing capital controls but look at the benefits the controls have brought to our country.

"The Western media criticise Dr Mahathir for controlling demonstrations. Imagine what would happen if demonstrations are not controlled. (In Indonesia), ethnic minority groups like the Chinese and religious minority groups like the Christians suffered," he said.

Goh said Dr Mahathir wanted Malaysia to be peaceful, stable and prosperous and the recent appointments of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Tun Daim Zainuddin as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister respectively showed Dr Mahathir wanted the economy to recover and was paving the way for his successor to take over.

He advised Malaysians to learn from the experience of China which in 1989 faced a hostile West.

However, instead of retaliating by criticising the West or holding demonstrations, the Chinese Government spent its time and energy to put its house in order.

"The Government realised that if the economy could be reformed successfully and the people's standard of living improved, China would be respected abroad and the boycott wither away. And this is exactly what happened."

He said the people rallied behind the Government and Chinese businessmen from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and South East Asia flocked to invest in China.

Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and other friendly countries also supported China.

This resulted in the economy leaping forward and the West becoming friendlier with China.

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