

10/01/1999

Invest in Tamil Nadu, firms urged

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Malaysian firms have been urged to invest in Tamil Nadu and avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the south Indian State's infrastructure and power development programme.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi said today his State would be happy to extend concessions and subsidies to Malaysian firms and was happy with Malaysian investments there.

Speaking at the end of his three-day visit, he said he met Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's office this morning and they had discussed his visit.

Karunanidhi said he handed a detailed feasibility report to Dr Mahathir for the re-development of a "minor" port in Kulachal on the southern tip of the State.

"I told Dr Mahathir of our development in information technology and extended an invitation to him for the 'Tamil in the Internet international seminar' to be held in February," Karunanidhi said.

During his visit, he also met Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Currently, Malaysia's IGM Corp Bhd is involved in the construction of the Chennai Expressway costing RM60 million.

Several Malaysian independent power producers have also won tenders for power projects in Tamil Nadu, including a 1,000W project in Cuddalore and a 600W project in North Chennai.

On his assessment of Malaysian Tamil literature, Karunanidhi said he was happy to note its progress and would continue to monitor its development.

He also advised Malaysian students to screen carefully offers for medical college places to avoid being duped.

This is the second visit to Malaysia for the 76-year-old politician, who is serving a fourth term as Chief Minister of the largely Tamil-speaking State. Tamil Nadu, with some 55 million people, is the fifth largest State economy in India.

(END)