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MALAYSIA-CHINA

M'SIA & MAHATHIR'S REPUTATION ENHANCE M'SIAN INVESTMENTS IN CHINA

By: Mohamad Nasir Yusoff

XIAMEN (China), Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's fine reputation and image as well as the stature of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has helped to facilitate trade and investment ventures of many Malaysian firms in China, said Malaysian businessmen here.

Those plus points are complemented by the strong commitment of Malaysian investors when implementing projects in China through efficient management and cost efficiency methodologies, said the chairman of Acmar International Group, Datuk Abdul Samad Maharuddin.

Abdul Samad, who is Malaysia's major investor in Xiamen, said those factors had helped to facilitate Malaysian trade and investment ventures as well as official dealings with various government departments here.

"Malaysia's fine reputation and Dr Mahathir, who is well-known and respected here, had certainly helped our business dealings here," he told reporters after the official opening of the JHH Commercial Building here, which is owned by Acmar.

Acmar International, which is headquartered in Klang, is a property development company and its major integrated housing project is the RM2 billion Bandar Baru Klang.

The opening ceremony of the 10-storey building valued at RM20 million here was officiated by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, who is now on a investment and tourism promotion mission in China.

Abdul Samad said Acmar International started constructing the building, which has a floor space of 100,000 sq ft, in mid-1996 and completed it on time.

The building, located at the junction of Lian Qian Western Road in the heart of the city, has office space and apartments. The Xiamen office of Acmar International is also located here.

It also houses "Malaysia Restaurant", the first Malaysian dining outlet serving spicy Malaysian Chinese and Malay dishes here. Malaysian cuisine is gradually being well-received by residents here.

Acmar International will also undertake another project here by building the Xiamen International Cultural Centre involving an investment of RM25 million, said Datuk Steven Tee, managing director of Acmar International.

He said the centre would be built after Chinese New Year next year. Construction is expected to take two and a half years.

The 25-storey building will be 80 percent owned by Acmar International and the rest by its local associates. It will also have service apartments, a shopping centre and office space.

Tee said Acmar International chose Xiamen as its investment location in China because of several factors. They include the fact that it is an investment city in Fujian Province and is one of the one of the five cities being promoted for rapid development by the Chinese government.

Its position as a major province where many overseas Chinese originated from, including the Hokkiens in Malaysia, and that its weather is not much different from Malaysia were also taken into consideration.

Tee said following Acmar International's appointment by Syarikat Pelaburan Kerajaan Selangor (SSIC) to promote Selangor, the company would set up a special office to attract investments to Selangor from China.

A special officer has been deployed at JHH commercial building to handle queries, undertake promotion, hold exhibitions on investment

opportunities in Selangor and facilitate the movement of investments into Selangor.

Acmar International has also started an induction centre here to promote Malaysia to Chinese students who show keen interest in studying in Malaysia.

The centre has two classes, which can accommodate up to 50 students for half a year at a time. It aims to expose the students to various aspects of life in multi-racial Malaysia besides providing English language lessons.

"We also co-ordinate the selection of students for colleges in Malaysia in accordance to their interest, qualifications and rules pertaining to foreign students in Malaysia," said Tee. -- BERNAMA

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