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Malaysia identifying Egyptian goods to be imported

Ahmad A. Talib in Cairo

MALAYSIA wants to buy more Egyptian goods and is identifying products to be imported from the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said at a dialogue with Egyptian intellectuals, civil servants and students.

Malaysia will make special efforts to buy more from Egypt but the process may take a little time.

He was asked whether the balance of trade between Malaysia and Egypt would improve in the coming years.

On whether there has been a decline in Malaysian investments in Egypt, Dr Mahathir said there might have been since the financial turmoil hit the country almost three years ago.

Malaysia is now more prepared to invest abroad, especially since the economy has recovered. "We certainly would like to invest in Egypt again."

Several students wanted to know whether he had any advice for Egypt, especially in terms of its economic development. Insisting he was not about to advise the Egyptian Government, he, however, said nothing could be achieved without discipline.

"... Many people have come to see us to find out how we do things... we believe nothing can be achieved without discipline. The whole nation must be disciplined. If you're not disciplined, you can't win in any situation."

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