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RAFIDAH-INVESTMENT

"M'SIA HAS ENOUGH ATTRACTIONS FOR CAPITAL INFLOW" - RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has enough attractions for the inflow of foreign investment no matter what kind of bad publicity the country receives, said International Trade and Industry's Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"We are not saying it because we want to pat ourselves on the back. Its a fact, they (the investors) are the ones who tell us so," she said.

She said a lot of investors who came to Malaysia felt that the situation here was different from what was depicted in the negative publicity given to the country.

A serious investor would do a survey on the pros and cons of the market before taking a decision on a project, she told newsmen during a briefing on the 13th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) here today.

Malaysia, she said continued to receive investments for the expansion of plants owned and operated by foreign-based companies especially the American companies involved in electronics production.

Rafidah was commenting on an article in a regional magazine which, in reporting on demonstrations in Indonesia, said that South East Asia countries with Muslim majority populations could experience a slowdown in the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Rafidah said the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) had submitted a 22-page proposal to the Finance Ministry in connection with the preparations for the forthcoming year 2002 Budget.

The proposals, she said, encompassed not only the manufacturing sector but also the related sectors namely services, logistics and trade.

She said the proposal focused on how to make these sectors more competitive.

"We have covered some of the things that we feel we need to focus on, and also on the very relevant suggestions from the private sector that we have been discussing over the last few months," she said.

MITI hoped that the Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would look positively at all the suggestions.

On whether there would be a tax-cut she said: "Tax cuts are not the only major issue; there are many other things that we need to do to make the private sector competitive." -- BERNAMA

SM SEL