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MAHATHIR-BUSINESSMEN

BE MORE ADVENTUROUS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

By: Sabarina Baharom

SHANGHAI, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told Malaysian businessmen to be more adventurous and seek investment opportunities abroad by competing in the international arena.

He said businessmen should not be afraid to invest overseas and be prepared to endure some discomfort and difficulties.

"Our businessmen are not very adventurous, they like to stay at home because they are very comfortable, but we have to go out and endure some discomfort," he said when launching the Royal Garden Sales and Customers Service Centre here.

Royal Garden is a condominium and townhouse property development project in Shanghai, undertaken by Yanfull (Shanghai) Co Ltd, a fully owned subsidiary of Golden Plus Holdings Bhd.

Dr Mahathir also commended the company for its daring venture in China and its willingness to face the hardships when its first undertook a Dino-Waterpark project which had become the biggest and popular theme park in the country.

"I am very glad to see that they have been received very well by the authorities in Min Hang district," he said.

Prime Minister said there were immense investment opportunities in China and as such there was no reason why Malaysian businessmen should not try their luck in the country and be successful.

Dr Mahathir said that China has the potential to become an economic power as it has 1.3 billion workers who are diligent and skillful.

Golden Plus Chairman Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Mohd Ali, who was at the function, said that Shanghai was leading the impetus of China's economic progress and growth with remarkable results.

"As businessmen, we are enthusiastic in actively participating in this challenging and extraordinary growth-oriented city of China," he said.

He said the company would be undertaking the housing project with the same vigour and commitment for excellence, similar to when the company undertook the Dino-Waterpark project in 1996.

He said the launching of the centre signals the beginning of development works on the project encompassing a 24-hectare area.

"We will be developing Royal Garden in stages, I am happy to announce that piling work for Phase IA will commence next month and it is targeted for completion by November 2002," he said.

The first phase of the project is expected to cost 400 million renminbi (about RM200 million)

Meanwhile, the District Chief of Min Hang, Hong Quan Wang, said at the function, that he would like to welcome more Malaysian investors and tourists to the district.

"There are numerous investment opportunities in Min Hang awaiting investors. We believe that through our hard work in the development of Min Hang district, investors will be able to reap high returns from their investments," he said. -- BERNAMA

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