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Mahathir-outlook

GLOBAL ECONOMY WILL NOT SEE IMMEDIATE RECOVERY, SAYS DR M

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 26 (Bernama) -- The depressed global economy is not expected to see quick recovery as there are still a lot of uncertainties surrounding the world economy and fears among the global population with regard to travelling, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the global economy would take time to recover as there were incidents which repeatedly ignited fear among the people in terms of travelling and numerous other uncertain incidents in the world economy.

"Recently such fears had returned because there was an incident where a man on a flight (from Europe to the United States last week) tried to explode a bomb carried in his shoes," he told reporters after recording his New Year message for Radio Television Malaysia at his office here.

The Prime Minister said travelling had now become very difficult because of the need to ensure that all security guidelines were followed.

The fact that people were not travelling as much and were not very confident that they would not be the next victims of some terrorist attacks would affect the global economy, he said.

"It (global economy) will recover but it will recover very slowly," he said.

On the aviation industry, Dr Mahathir said it would recover sooner or later and Malaysia was in a position to take advantage of this recovery.

"But at this time, many tourists are not interested to go to Europe or the US. Perhaps they should visit Malaysia as an alternative," he said.

Asked what was in store for the Malaysian economy next year, the Prime Minister said the country would continue to push the electronics and electrical industry while at the same time focusing on other areas that could generate economic wealth.

"We would continue with the electronics and electrical industry although it had not done well this year...but now we are also focusing on other areas. For example we have the capacity to manufacture a lot of equipment, fabricate a lot of steel and aluminium products. We are good in many other industries where we can seek new markets." he said.

Dr Mahathir said producers of household appliances could look at the Middle East as a fresh market.

"So we have to learn to depend on other industries," he stressed.

--BERNAMA

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