

09 JAN 2001

Mahathir-Myanmar

MYANMAR INVITES M'SIAN INVESTMENT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- The Myanmar government has invited Malaysian companies to invest in the processing of raw materials in that country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"They would like Malaysia to study the possibility of investing in Myanmar for the processing of raw materials, including fisheries," he told a news conference on his return from a three-day working visit to Myanmar.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali to Myanmar, said Myanmar offered plenty of investment potential as well as opportunities for importing from that country.

"Myanmar is a country blessed with abundant natural resources as well as large agricultural areas," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could buy a lot of agricultural products like chillies, onions, sugar, maize and fish from Myanmar.

"They also have rich sources of fish," he said.

The prime minister explained that the purpose of his visit to Myanmar was to obtain first-hand information on the situation in that country.

"There were reports which we had obtained from other sources which showed that things were seemingly bad (in Myanmar)," he said.

In actual fact, he said, the Myanmar government was giving attention to efforts in developing the country as well as its citizens, especially those staying in the rural areas.

Dr Mahathir also said he believed that the Myanmar government was keen to have closer bilateral ties with Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

MAD SHY RM