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MAHATHIR-GROWTH

M'SIA MAY SHOW BETTER Q3 GDP FIGURES, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the Malaysian economy may show an improved performance in the third quarter now that it is already one month into the third quarter.

"I think the third quarter might show slightly improved figures. That's our reading but I may be wrong. I don't know because in the beginning they said the US downturn will be shortlived and will turn around by the second half.

"But we don't see this thing (turnaround) happening just yet. But Malaysia is better insulated as a country," he told newsmen after presenting a keynote address at Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia's (IKIM) Dialogue here today.

Malaysia recorded a 3.2 percent growth in its first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) while the figure for the second quarter is scheduled to be released on Aug 23.

Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz recently said the central bank would revise the country's 2001 GDP forecast from its current projection of 5.0 percent to 6.0 percent. -- BERNAMA

MAD SHY