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US-Asean

US FIRMS UPBEAT ON M'SIA'S POTENTIAL AS REGIONAL HQ

PUTRAJAYA, May 15 (Bernama) -- The US-Asean Business Council has indicated its interest in promoting Malaysia as the regional headquarters for American companies.

This interest is said to have been conveyed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when the US-Asean Business Council delegation met him at his office here today.

A participant of the meeting, who requested anonymity, said the meeting was also a follow-up to very good feedback received from US companies that have set up their regional headquarters in Malaysia.

These US companies had expressed interest in making Malaysia as their regional headquarters and commended on Malaysia's competitiveness, he said.

He said the council also conveyed to Dr Mahathir that American companies were upbeat and confident with Malaysia's investment environment and economic progress.

Citing an example, he said one delegate informed the meeting that a US company had only recently shifted its headquarters to Kuala Lumpur from Australia.

The 32-member delegation, representing 17 American companies met Dr Mahathir for about an hour.

Meanwhile, the business council is also said to have expressed commitment towards promoting Malaysia among American companies as a centre for regional headquarters.

They also expressed their satisfaction with the Malaysian government's support for the private sector, he said.

"The business council had also raised a question on the development of Malaysia Airlines (MAS)," he said.

Dr Mahathir is said to have replied that the government welcomed foreign participation and remained open to suggestions for the national carrier.

He said the US-Asean Business council had also indicated to hold its board meeting in Malaysia in August as a testimony of its confidence in doing business in Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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