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CONFIDENCE IN COUNTRY'S ECONOMY GROWING, SAYS MUSTAPA

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Confidence in Malaysia's economy has been growing with the continued economic recovery being made, even if the recovery has been slow, says executive director of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

"The country's economy has been slowly recovering and the confidence of investors and local consumers is at a high level," he told a press conference here today.

Commenting on opposition claims that many investors were getting ready to pull out their investments in the country during the period of leadership transition from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he described the claim as an opposition tactic.

"Malaysia is strong and stable, and the smooth transition of leadership power would not cause any problems," he said.

Mustapa also pointed out that investments greatly depended on the world's economic climate.

"Even if there has been a slight drop in Foreign Direct Investment lately, it is related to the current slowdown in world economy," he said.

However, he was confident that if the world's economy continued to expand, Malaysia's economy would also continue to see good progress.

Mustapa, who is also head of communications for Umno Kelantan, described PAS as inconsistent with its policies on the implementation of teaching mathematics and science in English.

The difference of opinion between the Kelantan and Terengganu governments in the implementation of the policy clearly shows that, he said when asked to comment on news reports related to the issue.

"The Government's aim is to continue to place Malaysia on a competitive footing at the international markets as we have to chart our own directions. The English language is important for communications as well as science and technology.

"What we are doing is not for political gains but to ensure Malaysia's survival as an open country," Mustapa said. -- BERNAMA

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