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Mustapa-Transition

LEADERSHIP CHANGE WILL NOT HARM ECONOMY, SAYS MUSTAPA

MACHANG, July 7 (Bernama) -- The planned change in Malaysia's leadership from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will not harm the national economy, National Economic Action Council (NEAC) Executive Director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

He said the change would not lead to foreign investors turning to other countries.

"We find that local and foreign markets have reacted very favourably because the transition of power was planned carefully and orderly.

"This has made it very clear to the investors on what will happen next," he told reporters after meeting Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) students from the Machang branch campus.

On the possibility of Dr Mahathir appointing a new Finance Minister, Mustapa said it was the prime minister's prerogative.

He also advised Malaysians not to be contented with their comfortable life now but instead work harder to improve the national economy and attract more foreign investments to the country.

He said in future China, Singapore and Thailand would be among the countries that would emerge as keen competitors to Malaysia in wooing foreign investments.

"Although we have become the fastest growing country, we should not be contented with the achievement," he said.

Mustapa said Malaysians must practise a hardworking and productive culture to increase productivity and minimise production cost.

He said Malaysia had many advantages, including calibre leaders capable of steering the country in tackling challenges posed by globalisation besides maintaining lasting political stability.

-- BERNAMA

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