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RAFIDAH-INVESTORS

MALAYSIA'S FINE-TUNE BUSINESS PROGRAMME TO CONTINUE

By: Leslean Arshad

KLANG, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will continue to review and fine-tune its policies in order to make the country a highly preferred investment and business destination when Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi takes over as Prime Minister next month.

Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the government was committed to maintain and provide a friendly and favourable business environment.

She said the government would take what it needed to create a highly competitive manufacturing and export base and a preferred regional hub with a wide range of services and activities.

"Based on our track record of providing the best, both local and foreign businessmen should be comforted to invest now in order to take advantage of the many new benefits offered," she told reporters after opening Ohtsuki Seiko (M) Sdn Bhd plant in Bandar Puncak Alam near here today.

Asked whether called by a leading US-based Jewish lobby group for a boycott of investment and tourism in Malaysia had any bearing on Malaysia's investment climate, Rafidah said she did not think so.

"No, not at all," she said.

In his speech at the opening of OIC Summit, Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was critical of Muslims and Jews for the state of the world today, but his words had been misconstrued as anti-Semitic, drawing harsh response from certain quarters.

The influential Simon Wisenthal Centre called on investors and tourists to avoid Malaysia until it became clear that leaders who follow him after he retires, did not share his views.

Rafidah said business people think differently and they would do thorough "investigations" on the country first before they decided to do business.

"I'm sure people in genuine business will look at other things. They will not evaluate business decision based on reported news. If they do that, they are really not clever investors," she said.

She said investors would surely want to know more on the business environment if they were to invest.

As they say, seeing is believing and investors are welcomed to do business here, Rafidah said and added, "We are always not supportive of any measures, any strategies which divide the world nor any strategy that oppresses certain community." -- BERNAMA

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