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FORUM-MAHATHIR

TUN DR MAHATHIR TO SPEAK AT INDON BUSINESS FORUM

JAKARTA, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Former Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be a guest speaker at a Business Forum, organised by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), in conjunction with its fourth national convention from Feb 17 to 20, here.

ICCI Head, Abulrizal Bakrie, said today that Dr Mahathir will speak at the opening day of the forum themed 'Business Entity As Solution To the Problem of Today and the Future.'

"The theme is specially selected to analyse the various development in the business circle lately in Indonesia, which has shown dismal growth following the outbreak of the regional economic crisis five years ago," he told a press conference on the forum.

He said that delegates to the forum would have the opportunity to hear Dr Mahathir speak on the recipe of a successful economy based on the Malaysian experience when he was Prime Minister for 22 years before handing over power to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Oct 31 last year.

Abulrizal said that the biggest challenge to the Indonesian business community was the changes taking place in the business world, especially with regard to the World Trade Organisations (WTO) and at regional level, the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the ASEAN accord to create the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

He said that Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had also been invited and is scheduled to speak at the forum on Feb 18.

Other speakers include United States' Ambassador to Indonesia, Ralph L. Boyce, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Senior Resident Representative, David C.L. Nellor and Country Director of World Bank, Andrew Steer.

Among the topics to be discussed are the Indonesian national economy and priority of post-IMF programme, solution to increase investment, export

and job opportunities. -- BERNAMA  
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