

Rafidah: Trade with Thailand not hit by coup

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SHAH ALAM: Trade between Malaysia and Thailand is unaffected by the recent coup although the temporary leadership uncertainty has influenced communication.

"Feedback indicates it is business as usual over there. There has been no disruption. It's just that we need to wait for the new government to be formed to ascertain who the decision-makers are," said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"For instance, if my ministry needs to discuss certain matters with our counterparts in Thailand, who do I refer to?"

Rafidah said there were no crucial outstanding issues with Thailand that needed immediate response from the country.

On the higher import duty for Malaysian Completely-Built-Up cars as wanted by the previous Thai government, Rafidah said she

had written to the Thai government but "things have changed".

She said it was best to let the new government be formed first before communications resumed.

Rafidah was speaking to reporters after opening the Hauni Malaysia Sdn Bhd' new factory at Section 26 here.

She added that the Government intended to make Malaysia the regional production hub for high technology and specialised machinery as well as equipment sector.

Last year, there were 86 approved projects in the machinery and equipment industry with RM1bil total investment.

As for export, the country shipped out RM18.1bil worth of machine appliances and parts.

For the first seven months of this year, exports totalled RM11.5bil with the top five destinations being Singapore, America, Thailand, China and Indonesia.