

**Street Demos Scare Off Potential Investors, Says Mukhriz
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Street demonstrations and illegal rallies could scare off potential investors from the country, International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir said Thursday.

Such protests, when they get wide international media coverage, could indirectly jeopardise Malaysia's image as a hitherto politically stable nation, he said.

"When we go abroad to promote Malaysia as an investment destination, we are often told by potential investors that they are mainly attracted by the country's political stability.

"Sometimes we take this matter lightly, but we may not be aware that this is an important factor for them to decide to invest in a country," he told reporters after launching "World Islamic Tourism Mart 2012" here today.

"When I was in Japan recently, I was asked if street rallies will become commonplace in Malaysia, because this has not been Malaysia's image all this while.

"The Japanese asked what guarantees Malaysia can provide Japanese investors that their investments will be safe," he said.

Mukhriz made the remarks when asked to comment on the "Free Anwar 901" campaign rally planned for this Monday.

He also expressed concern that uncontrolled street protests could scare off outside investors.

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