

**Investments not affected, says Mukhriz**  
**MalayMail**  
**June 14, 2012**  
**By Ram Anand**

**THE** Bersih 3.0 rally did not affect the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country, but it would affect new investments "if it is allowed to continue", said Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

"So far, Bersih has not affected our investment portfolio because we have strong foundations with our target markets. But it (the rally) did not help in attracting new investments," he said.

Mukhriz was responding to a question by Datuk Shamsul Anuar Nasarah (BN-Lenggong) if the rally had affected Malaysia's FDI.

He said opposition members were attempting to tarnish the country's reputation by organising such rallies.

"When tarnished, we will have a lower amount of investment. And when that happens, they will turn around and blame the government for not doing a good job with the country's economy," he said.

According to the Jerlun MP, Malaysia's FDI increased from RM29.3 billion in 2010 to RM32.9 billion last year.

He also said a report by Switzerland's International Institute for Management Development (IMD) now ranks Malaysia as 14th most competitive economy in the world compared to 16th last year.

"Our confidence index for foreign investment has also increased. We used to rank 20th in 2010 but are now 10th in standings."

Deputy Foreign Minister A. Kohilan Pillay said the Bersih rallies in Mecca and Madinah had not been well received by the Saudi Arabian government.

"The Malaysians (in Saudi Arabia) should respect the laws of that land. They do not want Malaysians there to engage in political activities," he said in response to a question by Datuk Juslie Ajirol (BN- Libaran).

Kohilan said besides Mecca and Madinah being holy cities, this was also due to the good relations and special pilgrims quota that Malaysia enjoys with the Saudi Arabian government.

"It might affect the quota we have. But so far, the Saudi Arabian government assured us that these activities will not affect our relations," he said.

Source: <http://www.mmail.com.my/story/investments-not-affected-says-mukhriz>