

## **Mahathir calls on M'sians in Thailand to invest in home country**

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**By Mohd Haikal Mohd Isa**

BANGKOK, Oct 25 (Bernama) – The Malaysian business community in Thailand should consider investing back in Malaysia to contribute to the country's recovery and economic growth, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He praised Malaysians living in Thailand for remaining concern with the present affairs in the country, despite years of living abroad.

“Please do not forget that, while you are investing in Thailand, once in a while please remember that Malaysia also needs your investment. Being a successful businessmen you can contribute to the growth and recovery of Malaysia,” he said.

The prime minister said this in his opening remarks at a meeting with the Malaysia-Thailand Chamber of Commerce (MTCC), led by its honorary chairman Yeap Swee Chuan. Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah dan International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Darell Leiking.

Mahathir is on his second day visit to Thailand.

The Prime Minister said the Malaysian business community contributed greatly to the close ties between the Malaysia and Thailand, as well as for the huge bilateral trade.

Last year, the bilateral trade between Malaysia and Thailand reached more than RM90 billion with the balance of trade in favour of Malaysia.

Earlier, Yeap, in his opening remarks said Malaysians in Thailand were in the midst of building a Malaysian House in Bangkok, similar to the one in London, and hoped that the government would contribute to the cost of building it.

The MTCC, he said, expected the cost of building the house to be between RM20 to RM25 million and hoped the government could chip in with their funding.

The Prime Minister in response said, the government would contribute in line with the current economic condition of the county.

“We are very poor now,” he said in jest.

Earlier the Prime Minister received a courtesy call by chairman of TCC Group, Tan Sri Charoen Sirivadhanabakdi.

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