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CHOGM-MAHATHIR (BILATERAL)

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) -- THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM), WHICH ENDED HERE TODAY, HAS SUCCEEDED IN INTRODUCING MALAYSIA EFFECTIVELY TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOH AMAD SAID TODAY.

THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS, NOW KNOW WHAT MALAYSIA IS LIKE AND WILL UNDERSTAND BETTER THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND MALAYSIAN LEADERS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN THE FUTURE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

THE CHOGM HAS MANAGED TO ERASE SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE LEVEL OF PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY, HE TOLD MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS AFTER CHAIRING THE WEEK-LONG SUMMIT.

HE SAID THE DELEGATES WILL NOW UNDERSTAND BETTER WHEN MALAYSIA SPEAKS ABOUT TIN, RUBBER, INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID COMMONWEALTH LEADERS WERE IMPRESSED WITH NOT ONLY MALAYSIA'S ABILITY TO FULFIL THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE MEETING BUT ALSO THE INPUTS AND INITIATIVES THAT WENT INTO THE CONDUCTING OF THE SUMMIT.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HELD SEVERAL BILATERAL TALKS WITH LEADERS INCLUDING HIS COUNTERPARTS FROM AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN, CANADA, ZIMBABWE, GHANA, NIGERIA, LESOTHO, PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND SOME SMALLER PACIFIC COUNTRIES.

WITH HIS CANADIAN COUNTERPART BRIAN MULRONEY, HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF LANDING RIGHTS FOR MALAYSIA AIRLINES? FOR WHICH PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN MAS AND AIR CANADA BEFORE GOING INTO GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ZIMBAWE IS INTERESTED IN FELDA SCHEMES WHILE LESOTHO WANTS MALAYSIAN ASSISTANCE IN EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

BANGLADESH HAS ASKED FOR HELP FROM MALAYSIA IN SETTING UP A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM OF PLANNING AND MONITORING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, SIMILAR TO THE COMPUTER UNIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

NIGERIA AND BANGLADESH ARE KEEN TO LEARN FROM MALAYSIA HOW TO ATTRACT INFLOW OF FOREIGN CAPITAL.

GHANA ON THE OTHER HAND WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH MALAYSIA IN THE COCOA INDUSTRY, HE SAID, -- BERNAMA
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