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MALAYSIA WILLING TO SHARE EXPERTISE WITH TANZANIA

Mahathir - South

From Kuala Lumpur 00

DAR ES SALAAM, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is willing to share its experience and expertise with Tanzania because it believes it is crucial for countries of the south to strengthen cooperation between themselves, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said Wednesday night. *Oversee trips*

Speaking at a dinner hosted by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi on the first day of his three-day visit to Tanzania, he noted that members of the South continued to face problems in the emerging new world order.

Disparity in development, crippling debt burden, environmental degradation and falling prices of commodities, he said, were among their perennial problems.

+However as we grapple with these problems, we must not lose sight of the opportunities before us, + he said, adding that they recognised the importance of pragmatic economic programmes and constructive engagement with the north or developed countries.

+We hope the North will respond to, these overtures/ with similar constructive attitude, + he said.

The Prime Minister had earlier held a more than two hours of talks with President Ali Hassan followed by the signing of an economic, technical, scientific and cultural agreement between the two countries which also members of the South, the Non-aligned and the Commonwealth. -- more

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REPEAT aae tbe

Mahathir - South 2 **Dar Es Salaam**

The pact was signed before the two leaders by Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid in his capacity as Acting Foreign Minister and the Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Encik A.H. Diria.

Others present at the talks, on the Malaysian side, were special envoy Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, Secretary-General of the Primary Industries Ministry Tan Sri Wong Kum Choon and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industries (MITI), Harun Siraj.

Members of President Ali Hassan's team included Prime Minister John Mahala, Secretary-General of the ruling party Horace Kolimba and second Vice President Dr Salim Amour.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the final report of the South Commission launched in Caracas, Venezuela recently -- due to the work of its Chairman and former Tanzanian President Dr Julius Nyerere -- provided a valuable blueprint on economic development of the South.

+As the Central message of the report envisages, the South must move and find its own way in the world, it is now left to us to take advantage of the potentials for cooperation, + he added.

He said notwithstanding Malaysia's limited resources, it had extended assistance in the spirit of South-South cooperation to several developing countries in Africa, including Tanzania. -- more

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REPEAT aae tbe

Mahathir - South 3 (last) Dar Es Salaam

Apart from having trained several Tanzanian officials under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, Malaysia had also made contribution to the frontline states under the Africa Fund.

+We would continue to assist our African friends in whatever way we can in the future. At the very least we can learn from each other.

+As long as there is the political will, our endeavour to achieve a better life for our peoples in the true spirit of South-South cooperation could be realised,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the pact signed today was +timely+ and established the framework for enhanced Malaysia-Tanzania cooperation. --

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