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MAHATHIR HAILED AS CHAMPION OF THE POOR

Mahathir - champion

from Kuah Guan Oo

(P) Dr. M. over sea trips

DAR ES SALAAM, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is well known to many Tanzanians because he has always been in the news as one of the great champions of the poor, the leading English language Tanzanian newspaper, The Daily News, said in a front page editorial.

Welcoming the Malaysian prime minister's first visit to Tanzania on Thursday, the paper said: +Many of us know or remember (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir through reports concerning South-South cooperation, or the struggle between the poor South and the rich North.+

The paper recalled that at the launching of the South Commission report in Caracas, Venezuela, in August last year, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had made an important intervention for the acceptance and implementation of the report's recommendations.

On that occasion, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had announced that the recommendations contained in the report had begun to be implemented long before they were made public by the commission's chairman, Dr Julius Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania.

+Having (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir among us today is thus a great honour. The Malaysian leader is not only a personal friend to the Tanzanian people but also a true ally in the struggle for international, social and economic liberation,+ the paper said. -- more

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Mahathir - champion 2 Dar Es Salaam

Noting that Tanzania and Malaysia have a lot in common, the paper suggested that they cooperate in industry and agriculture, taking into account the fact that Malaysia is comparatively more advanced than Tanzania in both fields.

The Daily News also ran a banner headline, +Tanzania Keeps Her Door Wide Open For Malaysia+ in its front page report on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's visit.

It reported President Ali Hassan Mwinyi as saying that Tanzania welcomed friendly countries like Malaysia to come and join his country in the exploitation of its abundant natural resources.

He said the country and its natural resources had remained largely unexploited due to financial and technological limitations.

+It is for that reason that we have adopted an investment promotion policy aimed at attracting both local and foreign private investment,+ he said, adding that he was hopeful that Malaysian businessmen would take advantage of the close ties. -- more

▼25/10/17-20MST

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Mahathir - champion 3 (last) Dar Es Salaam

Yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir met several prominent Tanzanian businessmen before flying to the famous clove island of Zanzibar, which is also the most developed and prosperous part of the country of 24 million people with a per capita income of US\$123 (1989).

From Zanzibar, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, along with Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, flew to Arusha, known as the most beautiful city in the land of Kilimanjaro, the highest and snow-capped mountain in Africa.

Apart from visiting factories in the region, they visited the Ngorongoro crater known for its largest concentration of wildlife.

They spent the night at the Ngorongoro wildlife lodge and are due to return to Dar Es Salaam Friday.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is scheduled to have another four-eyed meeting with President Mwinyi, and will leave for home Saturday. -- Bernama

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