

Mauritius invited to tap into Sittdec

09 FEB 1993

By WONG CHUN WAI

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has invited Mauritius to subscribe to the multi-million ringgit South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (**Sittdec**) to further boost South-South co-operation.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Sittdec, using up-to-date information technology, would help to promote economic co-operation and trade among developing countries.

The Prime Minister said he believed the com-

puter data exchange would contribute towards the economic growth of Mauritius.

"The centre will function as the yellow-pages for the business communities to increase trade and investments among countries in the South," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a dinner in honour of visiting Mauritian Prime Minister Sir **Amerood Jugnauth** at Sri **Perdana** yesterday. Jugnauth is on a four-day official visit.

Malaysia, he said, would continue to share its experiences and contribute within its modest means to make South-South co-operation more effective.

During the Group of 15 summit in Senegal last November, the Malay-&n-mooted Sittdec won the admiration of G15 leaders.

To date, 12 countries are linked to the database in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia firmly believed South-South co-operation was not only possible but also practical.

"Many countries in the South have developed skills and expertise as well as agricultural and industrial capacities

which can be of benefit to other countries," he said.

Since 1981, he said, Malaysia had started a modest technical co-operation programme which was a manifestation to its commitment of South-South co-operation.

On Malaysia-Mauritius ties, Dr Mahathir said there had been several ministerial and business visits since his first official visit five years ago.

"We have at present four Malaysian companies operating in Mauritius. Our trade has significantly increased in the last four years," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the distance between the two countries had been bridged with the operation of the joint weekly flight between Malaysia Airlines and Air Mauritius.

Howe&r, he said there were many areas still unexplored, adding that the private sector of both countries should seize opportunities for increased trade, investment and economic co-operation.

He said both countries, who were members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth, shared similar views on many international issues, including the situa-

Red carpet
welcome
for visitors

09 FEB 1993

● FROM PAGE ONE

tion in South Africa.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia strongly felt that more rapid progress was necessary for the creation of a truly non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Jugnauth and wife Lady **Sarojini** were given a red carpet welcome at Parliament Square where they were met by Dr **Mahathir** and **Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali**.

Accompanied by Dr **Mahathir**, Jugnauth inspected a parade mounted by three officers and 103 men from the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment.

Jugnauth later had an audience with Yang di-Pertuan **Agong** Sultan **Azlan Shah** and **Tuanku Bainun**, and paid a courtesy call on Dr Mahathir.

He will be visiting several other places.

● TURN TO PAGE 3