

# Dr M: Subscribe to trade data exchange

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia has urged Mauritius to subscribe to the South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre aimed at helping the economic growth of developing countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in making the call during a dinner he hosted for visiting Mauritian Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth, said SITTDEC would function as the "yellow pages" for the business communities to increase trade and investments among the South countries.

The centre is a product of initiatives of the "Group of 15" countries and SITTDEC was officially launched during its third summit in Dakar in Senegal in November last year.

The centre will have its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

"The setting up of SITTDEC, using up-to-date information technology will help promote economic co-operation and trade among developing countries," he said.

ed closely in promoting and advancing shared interests.

He said among the areas where the two countries shared similar concern was South Africa.

"While we welcome the changed attitude and efforts of the Pretoria regime to scrap the remaining vestiges of apartheid, Malaysia strongly feels that more rapid progress is necessary for the creation of a truly non-racial and democratic South Africa.

"While we urge the Pretoria regime to redouble its efforts to realise its promises, we also urge all parties concerned to demonstrate closer understanding and co-operation to ensure the early resumption of the negotiating process.

"Malaysia feels that South Africa, with all its potential, should strive to take its rightful place among the family of nations.

"Towards this end, the transition towards the establishment of an interim Government for the eventual realisation of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa will be more

He said many countries in the South have developed skills and expertise as well as agricultural and industrial capacities which can benefit other countries.

In this context, he said, Malaysia firmly believes that South-South co-operation is not only possible but also practical and has since 1981 started a modest technical co-operation programme as a manifestation of its commitment to such co-operation.

Expressing satisfaction that the programme has been well-received by the Mauritian Government, he added, that Malaysia would continue to share its experiences and contribute within its modest means to make South-South co-operation more meaningful.

He said the private sectors of both countries have actively explored the opportunities available in each other's countries and trade has increased significantly over the last four years.

"Despite the notable progress in the bilateral economic relations, I believe there are still many areas that remain unexplored. I urge the private sector of both countries to seize the opportunities for increased trade and investment that are available," he said.

Dr Mahathir said as members of the South, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth, the two countries share similar views on many international issues and have co-operat-

urgent than ever," he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary-General (II) Datuk Renji Sathiah told newsmen at the end of discussions between the two delegations that Malaysia had offered to assist Mauritius in its long-term economic planning and in the developing a stock market.

In return, Mauritius had offered to train Malaysians in seamanship in their merchant ships and offered their expertise in sugar technology and deer farming.

Renji said more discussions would be held on how Malaysia could assist Mauritius in the development of a stock market and in educating the public in the workings of the stock market.

The Mauritian delegation had indicated their interest in increasing Malaysian investments to the republic possibly in the establishment of building materials factories.

Currently, Malaysian investments in Mauritius included a 2,000-unit low-cost housing project undertaken by Kit Homes, a subsidiary of local housing developer, Country Heights, and a 200-room five-star resort hotel undertaken by Berjaya Leisure.

The RM64 million low-cost housing project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year while the RM100 million hotel will be ready by early next year.