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Mahathir-ZITF

ZITF A SHOWCASE FOR EXPORTERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DR M

From Zainoor Sulaiman

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, April 29 (Bernama) -- Zimbabwe offers tremendous potential for foreign investment and trade and is set to become a major gateway to the southern African market, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today. (P)
ceremonial trip

Opening the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF '94) here, the Prime Minister described the structural changes being undertaken by the Zimbabwean government to liberalise the economy and trade regime as a move in the right direction.

Dr Mahathir is the first non-African leader to be given the honour to open the seven-day fair attended by 1,000 participants from 30 countries.

He described ZITF '94 as a important showcase for exporters in developing countries with products for the market in the region.

"It provides a relevant marketplace for businessmen to meet and interact with one another to identify areas of common interest and to enhance South-South Cooperation," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-ZITF 2 Bulawayo

Dr Mahathir and the entire members of the Malaysian delegation including businessmen flew in a chartered flight to this city, about 450km southwest of Harare.

He was given a ceremonial welcome on arrival at Bulawayo, the second largest city of Zimbabwe, with a population of 600,000 population.

On hand to receive him at the airport was President Robert Mugabe, who also accompanied him at the ZITF fair ground.

Dr Mahathir said there were many areas of economic activities where producers in developing countries could be competitive globally.

However, due to various reasons, among them lack of knowledge of market opportunities and appropriate technology, preoccupation with the domestic market, and overdependence on traditional foreign buyers and suppliers, their resilience had been undermined and their horizon narrowed, he added.

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Mahathir-ZITF 3 (last) Bulawayo

The Prime Minister said that many developing countries, and even those classified as least developed, were rich in natural resources.

"If countries with endowment can attain developed economic status, there is no reason to believe that countries of the south cannot attain a greater degree of development," he said.

A total of 14 Malaysian companies are taking part in ZITF '94. They are EON, Proton, Silver Stone Tires, Berjaya Group, Mechmar Voilers, Petronas, UMW Corporation, L.B. Food Sdn Bhd, DMIB Berhad, Alinamin (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, Intraco Hardware (M) Sdn Berhad, Welding Industries (M) Sdn Bhd, Orgavyl Chemical Sdn Bhd and Malaysia Palm Oil Council. -- Bernama

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