

Local company links up with US firm for S. African project

By Zainal Alam

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Two companies, one from a developing country and the other from a developed nation, today joined forces to assist in the economic development of a post-apartheid South Africa.

Taliworks (Oversea) Sdn Bhd, a Malaysian company, and US firm Black & Veatch International this evening signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form a consortium to participate in a housing and infrastructure project in that country.

Taliworks (Oversea) is involved in civil engineering and construction works while Black & Veatch International is engaged in power generation and infrastructure projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Works Minister Datuk

Leo Moggie witnessed the signing ceremony held at the Malaysian Petroleum Club in the Dayabumi complex.

The signatories were Taliworks (Oversea) chairman Datuk Mohamad Hussaini Abdul Jamil and Black & Veatch Asia Pacific managing director Howard A. Russell.

Under the MoU, the two companies will formulate a framework to enable the consortium to make inroads into South Africa.

They will also invite other Malaysian and American firms to join them in the project.

This is the first time that a Malaysian and US company are jointly involved in projects in South Africa.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said he was very happy that an American and a Malaysian compa-

ny had come together to work in South Africa.

"We have always stressed in our relationship with South Africa that we wish to contribute towards solving some of their social, economic and even political problems.

"The situation in South Africa is not unlike that in Malaysia.

"There is a need to restructure society, bring in everybody so that each one will have a share in the wealth of South Africa.

"I think this is an area Malaysians are conversant with and I think in that area we can contribute also in trying to resolve problems that are related to inequitable racial development."

The two companies have agreed to participate in the construction of low to medium-cost houses complete with the necessary infra-

structure facilities.

The Malaysian side will also be involved in creating new townships and expanding existing ones while the American side will undertake the masterplanning of the township and housing development, provide financing and participate in power generation projects.

Hussaini said the two companies would undertake a joint study, which would take between three and six months, before meeting the South African authorities.

"We hope to get the assistance of other Malaysian companies which are interested to be part of South Africa's development."

He said that the names of the other Malaysian companies would be announced as and when they ventured in-

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PM: Our embassy coming up soon

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to the projects.

Taliworks (Oversea) is part of the Taliworks group of companies and has carried out several civil engineering and construction work, particularly in Selangor.

Russell said there was no time-frame for the launching of their projects but that they would be carried out as soon as possible.

He said Black & Veatch was involved in various infrastructure and power generation projects worldwide.

Meanwhile Dr Mahathir, when asked about plans for the setting up of a Malaysian trade office in South Africa, said the Malaysian Government had already approved the setting up of an embassy in South Africa.

"In fact our man is already there and it's just a matter of formalities only before he is acknowledged as the High Commissioner of Malaysia for South Africa."

It is understood that the Charge D'Affaires of the Malaysian office in South Africa, Choo Eng Guan, would be appointed the High Commissioner.