

30 JUL 1996

Anwar-Africa

AFRICAN NATIONS WANT TO SHARE MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE

LANGKAWI, July 30 (Bernama) -- Several African nations have expressed the wish for Malaysia to seriously help them in developing their countries, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said they were looking forward to proposals and ideas apart from financial assistance.

"They want Malaysia to not only give financial aid but also to help them identify problems," said Anwar, who is Finance Minister.

"This includes solid proposals for development projects to be implemented in their countries based on the Malaysian experience," he told reporters after meeting African leaders who are here for the Langkawi International Dialogue on Smart Partnership.

The African leaders he met were Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire, Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and Malawi Vice-President Justin C. Malewei.

Anwar said they wanted details on programmes that had been implemented in Malaysia, especially the privatisation policy which the government had implemented without neglecting its other responsibilities.

"I am quite touched by their attitude because this is an unusual form of recognition for our experience," he said.

Anwar said the African leaders were told that not all of Malaysia's plans and policies could be adopted by them.

"I told them this because what we do here may need some adjustments to be implemented there," he said.

Anwar said the meetings were a follow-up to the ones they had with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday. -- BERNAMA

ZAA YBY