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Dialogue-Mahathir

ENSURE SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL, MAHATHIR TELLS NATIONS

By: M. Jegathesan

LANGKAWI, July 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today closed the Second Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) here with an appeal to all nations to distribute their wealth in a way that will ensure social justice for the people.

He said it is worth to try "the Smart Partnership" approach where the administration, workers and business forged partnerships to achieve prosperity and stability for the people and countries.

LID is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Limited (CPTM) and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT), supported by the Commonwealth Foundation for Technology Management (CFTM).

Six heads of state, 14 ministers and 250 captains of industry and government officials from Commonwealth countries attended the three-day dialogue.

The theme of the LID is "Smart Partnership", a concept where individuals and governments forged win-win situations aimed at boosting trade, investment and development of mutually beneficial technologies.

"We should try new approaches to achieve social justice to ensure the people have a fair share of the wealth of their nations," Dr Mahathir said.

Recapping the past, the prime minister who chaired the closing session, said the role of the government had undergone a lot of changes.

Dr Mahathir said initially it was to ensure law and order, then countries embarked to show their superiority by conquering other countries and came up with ideologies but they went in the wrong direction in search of social justice.

"They paid a heavy price for that attempt to achieve social justice," he added.

Dr Mahathir also appealed to big corporations to reinvest to strengthen the process of social justice that will bring more meaningful purpose for their (corporations) existence.

At the opening remark on Monday, he said in smart partnership, there is an element of social justice in addition to those of purely commercial concerns.

"We believe that business should be mutually beneficially to the parties concerned while at the same time it should contribute to the good of the peoples and the nations, whether they are involved or not," Dr Mahathir said.

He said the next LID could be held in Langkawi in July. "LID is a useful dialogue. We may have to come here again to identify new devices for Smart Partnership and approaches to move forward."

Dr Mahathir also said the private sector could put in place some of the things that were discussed at the LID. "I am sure you will be rewarded."

At the next LID, participants could discuss technology management, adding that such dialogues could be help in alternate regions that required focus in specific areas.

Meanwhile, Sir Ralph Robbins, chairman of Rolls Royce and joint chairman of the International Steering Group of the LID, in his closing remark said LID had proven that networking among businessmen and the community is important.

"Mayby at the next LID, we can discuss case studies of joint projects

that have arisen out of Smart Partnership," he added. -- BERNAMA  
JSM AAM