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Fiji-Cooperation

FIJI INTENDS TO EMULATE MALAYSIA'S ITM CONCEPT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Fiji is impressed with the set-up of Mara Institute of Technology (ITM) and hopes to create a similar institution, Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said today.

Winding up a three-day visit to Malaysia, Rabuka said the ITM concept was of relevance to Fiji. He visited ITM in Shah Alam yesterday.

He said he would be talking to his Cabinet about the concept in the hope of getting support to establish such an institution in the island nation.

"I believe it is very important for our own political stability," he told a news conference at the KL Hilton here after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a farewell call on him.

He said that Fiji was also keen to learn more about Malaysia's economic planning programme particularly in the concept that economic activities were not planned in isolation.

"It has had a very strong political consideration as part of the overall economic development programme of your government...Perhaps our own economic planners could learn from you," he said.

Rabuka said he was hoping to get the cooperation of the other major races in Fiji to go the same way as Malaysia in achieving national unity.

Describing his visit to Malaysia as very good, he said the private sector of both countries could enhance Malaysia-Fiji relations by stepping up cooperation.

He invited Malaysians to widen their participation in Fiji's agro-based and tourism industries or investing in new areas like aquaculture.

While Fiji was looking for more five-star hotels to be built, he said the country would consider proposals to establish hotels of lesser classification outside the tourism belt of the main island.

-- BERNAMA

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