

07 SEP 1996

Malawi-Labour

MALAWI WILLING TO OFFER LABOUR, SAYS PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Malawi is willing to supply labour force to Malaysia should the latter request for it, its president, Dr Bakili Muluzi, said today.

He said that as Malaysia was facing a labour shortage due to its fast growing industries, Malawi would be able to complement the needs in certain areas.

"If Malaysia requests, we are able to supply (labour) as there is a lot of abandoned labour in Malawi," he told a news conference at the end of his three-day visit here.

Dr Muluzi said his country would be able to supply workers especially in the agricultural field.

He invited Malaysian investors to venture into Malawi's agricultural, tourism and manufacturing sectors.

Dr Muluzi said the two agreements signed between Malawi and Malaysia during his visit here would boost bilateral trade and investments which currently was very small.

Last year's trade stood at RM1.87 million with exports from Malaysia amounting to RM1.33 million and imports, RM0.54 million.

Malaysia's imports from Malawi comprised mainly vegetables and tubers, oil seeds and fruits.

Dr Muluzi, who visited a low-cost housing project yesterday, said Malawi would invite Malaysians to carry a study on implementing similar projects in that country.

He had also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to visit Malawi.

"The prime minister himself is very keen on investment. Dr Mahathir has agreed to come to Malawi and very soon he will come with a group of Malaysian investors," he said. -- BERNAMA

RAZ JK