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Mahathir-LID

ADOPT SMART PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT, SAYS MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, July 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for a complete change in the mindset of the people, saying that adopting a smart partnership will pit them well in an environment fraught with challenges.

He said the emergence of digital technology had transformed the rules of competition in business resulting in only one or two parties emerging as winners.

"New concepts of trade and investment has created the need for a revolutionary business ethos," he said in a message in the souvenir programme of the Langkawi International Dialogue 1997 (LID '97).

Dr Mahathir, who is LID '97's patron and advisor, said that too often in the past, competition meant one out of two parties must emerge as the winner while the other had to accept the role of loser.

"However, as we approach the new millenium, the combination of high technology and globalised markets has established new concepts of trade and investment," he said.

"This has created the need for a revolutionary business ethos and principles and governments to re-engineer not only our work processes, but also the midset of our people," he added.

The Prime Minister said the smart partnership concept could be expanded to other entities such as between individuals, companies and cities.

He said that the concept should not be confined to only between the government and private sector and between nations in a region.

Citing the Barbados International Dialogue (BID `96) for Small States and the recently held Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID `97) in Kasane, Botswana, Dr Mahathir said he was pleased to note that the LID had been followed by similar initiatives in other regions.

"This will help to usher in a new understanding between regions and groupings which will contribute to an era of global peace and prosperity, a Commonwealth of the World where wealth would truly be common," he said.

Dr Mahathir said LID '97 would strengthen person-to-person relationships to form Smart Partnerships which would help one another for the benefit of all mankind.

This years's LID themed `Smart Partnership in Action' will be attended by heads of governments, vice-presidents, deputy prime ministers and ministers from countries such as Botswana, Jordan, Namibia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mauritius, Grenada, Seychelles and Zimbabwe. -- BERNAMA

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