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BOTSWANA OFFERS INCENTIVES FOR MANUFACTURING

LANGKAWI, July 30 (Bernama) -- Botswana, in recognising Malaysia's strength in electronics and semi-conductor manufacturing, is offering investors special investment packages to establish similar operations in that country.

Its President, Sir Ketumile Masire, said besides this, other potential areas for investment include tourism, agro-based industries and light industrial manufacturing activities.

"Our low tax base and relatively low cost of doing business is something which foreign investors including from Malaysia should consider," he told reporters during a break on the last day of the Third Langkawi International Dialogue (LID '97).

"We hope that Malaysian manufacturing companies would facilitate the transfer of technology to Botswana," he said.

Masire said that Botswana was also offering tax incentives for the establishment of labour-intensive industries, adding investors could use the country as a base to the larger Southern African market.

Currently, he said several Malaysian investors were in the midst of negotiations or were starting to undertake projects in areas such as property development, particularly in hotel construction.

On tourism, Masire said the sector was a potentially lucrative area that could be developed further with the assistance of Malaysian companies which have penetrated other markets successfully.

Yesterday, Masire held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad during which they stressed the need to enhance two-way commercial linkages. -- BERNAMA

MR SHY