

22/03/1997

Chissano: We will work closely with embassy

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Mozambique will work closely with the Malaysian embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe to verify that only capable and bona fide Malaysian companies are awarded contracts for projects in its country.

The republic's President, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, said the embassy was there to create conditions and ensure a good relationship between both countries.

Malaysia currently has no embassy in Mozambique.

"The embassy should also alert us on the contacts which are not useful to us and also for the relationship of both countries," he told reporters at a Press conference today. Also present was Minister of Entrepreneur Development Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Chissano was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice that developing countries verify with the respective Malaysian embassies or missions before they seek the help of Malaysian companies.

This was to avoid cases of Malaysian companies which secured projects abroad or had entered into memoranda of understanding but failed to implement them.

Besides verifying that these companies were bona fide, the move was also to determine whether they have the capability and intention to implement the projects.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who said this when briefing reporters on the talks between Chissano and Dr Mahathir yesterday, also said that this was the first time that Dr Mahathir had explained the matter during his discussion with a leader of a foreign country.

Chissano, who leaves tomorrow after a four-day visit, is leading a 34-member official delegation.

On whether Mozambique had encountered any such problem, he said it had not.

Chissano also expressed his country's interest to learn of the Malaysian experience on privatisation.

He said his country was keen to follow Malaysia's experience but it would be adapted to the conditions of his country.

"Both Malaysia and Mozambique have a common desire to establish and develop co-operation in economic, technical and scientific fields.

"It is our belief that the private sector can play an important role in the process of development of Mozambique."

This he said, was why he had brought along 17 Mozambique businessmen together with his official delegation to enable them to make contact with their Malaysian counterparts.

"We have learned about the dynamism of the Malaysian private sector and its important relations with the Government."

During his visit Chissano and his delegation were given a full account on how Malaysia transformed itself from an agricultural based country into an industrial regional power.

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