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Djibouti Foreign Minister praises Dr M's leadership

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Sun. - Many countries in the South can learn from Malaysia on how to maintain political stability and achieve high economic growth, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Republic of Djibouti, Mohamed Moussa Chehem said today.

"Malaysia's economic success over the past decade has already captured the attention of many countries in the South," he added.

Mohamed Moussa also praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who he said had on many occasions spoken up for countries in the South.

"His call for greater South-South co-operation has been welcomed," he said in an interview after being given a guided tour of the Genting Resort Complex by the senior vice-president (Human Resources) Datuk Anthony Yeo.

Also present were Djibouti ambassador to Japan, Rachad Farah and the Secretary-General of his ministry, Mohamed Hassan Abdillah.

Mohamed Moussa who arrived from Jakarta yesterday for a four-day visit, said he was very impressed with Malaysia's economic success and had great admiration for the Malaysian Government.

"We also recognise Malaysia's efforts to help African countries," he added.

On the balance of trade, which is in Malaysia's favour, Mohamed Moussa said: "Our country located on north-east Africa can act as a bridge for Malaysian goods to the Gulf-Arab and African countries.

"Djibouti has the port, airport and banking services to assist Malaysian businessmen."

He said Malaysian investors could help in the reconstruction of Djibouti's economy and also take advantage of the "gateway" to a huge market for trade.

Mohamed Moussa, who will call on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi tomorrow said he would impress upon the two leaders on the possibility of establishing air services between the two countries.

"There is a lot of tourism potential that can benefit both countries," he added.

Mohamed Moussa is also scheduled to visit the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department and various agencies.

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