

28/07/1997

Dr M to moderate closed-door session tomorrow

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will moderate a closed-door dialogue session on Tuesday among heads of state and government attending the Third Langkawi International Dialogue.

He is expected to touch on Malaysia's experience in privatisation and the constructive engagement of the people, which has made such a policy a success.

Besides delivering a keynote address at the opening of the dialogue today, the Prime Minister will also moderate a dialogue session on technology for emerging economies.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin will also moderate two separate dialogue sessions with the heads of state and government.

Briefing reporters on the event, LID '97 joint chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli said many heads of Government had shown interest in learning the secrets behind the success of Malaysia's privatisation concept.

He said Malaysia had shown that privatisation need not necessarily involve the laying-off of workers.

"On the contrary, the privatised companies not only grew in strength but in the process also made profits."

Also present were the other joint chairman, Dr Kenneth Gray, LID '97 joint secretary Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology chief executive, Dr Ahmed Tasir Lope Pihie, among others.

The three-day dialogue, attended by some 350 participants, including several Heads of Government, is organised by MIGHT and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management.

Describing this year's dialogue, themed "Smart Partnership in Action" as having made a quantum leap in the promotion of the smart partnership concept, Tajudin said this could be judged from the manner the subject was addressed by participants.

"When the first dialogue was held in 1995, almost everyone was asking what the concept was all about. But now, they are talking about ways to enhance it."

Tajudin said among other areas of interest to many participants were on regional growth areas and co-operative frameworks beyond national borders, especially among the small states.

Omar said the highlight of LID '97 would be the sharing of experiences and developing new perspectives through interactive sessions.

"No one is here to impose their ideas or views on others but to add and nurture the smart partnership concept."

He said the different culture and systems of participants necessitated the experiences and knowledge acquired to be applied according to their particular environment and capabilities.

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