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Mahathir-Malaysia

MALAYSIA OFFERS TO HELP RESOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has offered to play a role in efforts to resolve problems being faced in African nations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The offer was made in his talks with South Africa's President Nelson Mandela at Cape Town yesterday during his visit to the republic.

President Mandela was playing a major role in Africa and was involved in efforts to resolve many of Africa's problems, he said at a news conference on his return from a week-long visit to three African nations -- Malawi, Botswana and South Africa.

"We discussed Africa's problems and whether we can play a role ..if we can help in anyway, we'll help," Dr Mahathir said.

During his visit, Dr Mahathir was bestowed South Africa's highest award "Order of Good Hope (First Class) -- in appreciation of his effective leadership in the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement and other international forums.

During his visit to Botswana Dr Mahathir addressed the Southern African International Dialogue which he said was very useful in identifying problems faced by the nations of Southern Africa.

Dr Mahathir, the only non-African leader to address the dialogue, said many of the participants had attended the Langkawi International Dialogue and used it as a model.

"They accepted Malaysia's approach towards national development and they wished to exchange ideas with us on developing their countries," he said.

On his visit to Malawi, Dr Mahathir said that country wanted to strengthen links with Malaysia and sought Malaysian investments to speed up its development.

Malawi was going through a process of redevelopment and had good potentials but was in need of much foreign investment, he added. -- BERNAMA

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