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Malaysia to use Namibia as a gateway

Lokman Mansor; Anita Gabriel

MALAYSIA plans to use Namibia as a base for expanding into other countries in Africa, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Speaking to reporters after receiving a courtesy call from Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma in Langkawi yesterday, he said Malaysia is happy with the present stage of cooperation between the two countries, and will look into suggestions to further expand this cooperation.

Nujoma added that discussions with Dr Mahathir focussed on plans to further cooperate in terms of investment from Malaysia, joint ventures between Namibian and Malaysian businesses, and to expand business activities from Namibia to perhaps Angola, Congo, and Zambia.

Several heads of government and corporate leaders are currently attending LID '97, which ends today (July 30), on "Smart Partnership in Action".

The dialogue is organised by the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology.

Dr Mahathir said the idea of smart partnership will catch on.

Ugandan Vice President Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, who met Dr Mahathir later, said discussions with the Prime Minister centred on cooperation and strengthening both their public and private sectors.

"We are inviting your industrialists to set up businesses and help us. We talked about sharing of technology," she said.

Dr Mahathir's itinerary in Langkawi included numerous courtesy calls from heads of government who are attending LID '97.

Dr Mahathir will receive four courtesy calls in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

They are from Seycheles Minister of Industry Ralhp Adam, Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire, Jordan Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Majali, and Lesotho Deputy Prime Minister Prof Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili.

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