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Mozambique-Malaysia

MOZAMBIQUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH MALAYSIAN EMBASSY IN HARARE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 21 (Bernama) -- Mozambique will work closely with the Malaysian embassy in Harare to ensure that only "bona fide" firms and companies are awarded mega projects in the host country.

Visiting Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano said today it was also the responsibility of the Malaysian embassy to inform Mozambique of the best way to deal with Malaysian companies.

He said the embassy should also alert Mozambique on the contacts which are not useful to it and the relationship between the two countries.

"The embassy is there for the purpose to create good conditions and relationships between Malaysia and Mozambique. The embassy in Harare is also the embassy for Mozambique," Chissano told a news conference here.

The president was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's request that countries like Mozambique, which invite Malaysian firms to undertake mega projects, check their credentials with the Malaysian missions to avoid dealing with unscrupulous players.

The matter was discussed during a delegation meeting between Dr Mahathir and Chissano at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday. This was the first time that Dr Mahathir had discussed the matter in his talks with a foreign leader.

Asked whether Mozambique had encountered any problems with Malaysian companies, he said: "For the time being, we don't have any problems."

Chissano, who is leading a 34-member delegation including several ministers and 17 business men on a four-day official visit here, said Mozambique would adapt to Malaysia's privatisation policy and learn from the latter's experiences in implementing the policy.

"We also learnt about the dynamism of the Malaysian private sector and its important relations with the government in our visit to the Economic Planning Unit, the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority and the Proton automobile plant.

"We were given a full account on how Malaysia quickly transformed itself from an agriculture-based country into an industrial regional power visionary driven into a post-industrial society of the 21st century," he said.

On Malaysian investments in Mozambique, Chissano said there were positive responses and assurances from Malaysian businessmen that they would invest in Mozambique and visit the country beginning next month.

"Some have even expressed desire to invest in tourism, hotel construction and agricultural projects. I am sure from the meeting between the Mozambican businessmen and their counterparts here, they will have many more proposals to come in," he said.

Chissano noted that the meeting with Dr Mahathir was fruitful, cordial, useful and productive.

"We discussed and identified possible areas of bilateral cooperation between Mozambique and Malaysia. It is our understanding that the government of Mozambique and Malaysia have a common desire to establish and develop their cooperation in the economic, technical and scientific fields.

Such fields should complement sectors such as energy, transport and communications, agriculture, industry, technology and investments in general, he added.

On the international front, he said the relations between Mozambique and Malaysia transcended the entire range of bilateral goals, with both

interests rooted in the promotion of the South-South cooperation.

"Mozambique and Malaysia promote South-South cooperation in regional and transcontinental institutions of cooperation of which both are members, such as the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Commonwealth and the newly created Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)," he said.

Chissano hoped that the goal of establishing and reinforcing bilateral economic, technical and scientific relations would be followed up by the government institutions and business community concerned.

"We will also, at the highest levels, make the necessary follow up. For that reason, I have invited Prime Minister Dr Mahathir to visit Mozambique," he added. -- BERNAMA

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