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Mahathir-partnership

SMART PARTNERSHIP GAINING POPULARITY, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the smart partnership concept emphasised by Malaysia is gaining popularity in southern Africa and the Caribbean apart from countries in the Southeast Asia region.

He said the concept was accepted by many because it emphasised fair deal for all parties.

"In smart partnership, both parties should gain fairly," Dr Mahathir said when launching the one-village-one-product campaign and Oita Prefecture 1997 Tourism Promotion at the Mall here.

The event is in conjunction with the Oita Prefecture Speciality Products and Tourism Fair.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy to note that last week's Asia-Kyushu Regional Exchange Summit in Langkawi had succeeded in bringing about a new understanding on partnership.

"We want to establish smart partnership," he said.

Dr Mahathir praised Oita governor Morihiko Hiramatsu for raising the smart partnership concept earlier in his speech at the opening of the fair.

There were various types of partnership "and sometimes one party gains more than the other party", the prime minister said.

On the one-village-one-product programme, which was introduced in Kedah after his visit to Oita in 1989, Dr Mahathir said it had been successful and helped increase the income of villages in the state.

The concept has also spread to other parts of Malaysia following the success in Kedah.

Dr Mahathir hoped the public would visit the fair to learn about developing village products.

Also present were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Zahir Ismail. -- BERNAMA

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