

# Tanzania seeks **tips** on **privatisation**

By **LESLIE LAU**

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tanzania is keen to learn from Malaysia's privatisation programme and wants Malaysian business participation as it embarks on its own market reforms.

Briefing reporters on Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa's talks here with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general I Datuk Ghazzali Sheikh Abdul Khalid however said Malaysia now had a limited capacity for further investment under the present economic conditions.

"While our capacity is currently limited, the opportunity for trade needs to be explored," he told reporters after bilateral talks between the two leaders and a one-and-a-half hour meeting between the Tanzanian delegation and senior

Malaysian government officials.

Malaysia now has approximately US\$180mil (RM684mil) worth of investment in Tanzania.

Among the notable projects are a power plant completed in September and a cellular telephone network operated by Celcom.

"We will explore the possibility of sourcing materials from Tanzania and increasing our exports like palm oil," Ghazzali said.

Malaysia exports mainly palm oil and rubber to Tanzania and imports cotton, copper and tobacco.

Ghazzali said Tanzania was now divesting its public sector and expressed concerns that privatisation would result in the government having little say in the growth and direction of the country.

"As Tanzania embarks on its market reforms, they want to know how

we have retained ownership and direction of our economy in a free market system," he said.

The Tanzanian president, who is on a three-day visit to Malaysia, is accompanied by his wife Anna and several senior officials.

He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square yesterday where he was greeted by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah. Also present were Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and Cabinet members.

President Mkapa's delegation includes acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Zakia Meghji, Minister of Local Government Ali Haji Ali, Minister of Energy and Minerals Abdallah Kigoda and senior government officials.