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Abdullah-LID

LID ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY FOR MALAYSIA, SAYS DPM

By: E.Sivabalan

LANGKAWI, July 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who is making his maiden appearance at the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) in his capacity as the Deputy Prime Minister, has described it as another success story of Malaysia.

"It has been a very fruitful and successful dialogue," he said while commending his boss, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who engineered the LID.

To prove his point, Abdullah said during the last three days, he was informed that countries in other regions were very keen to have a similar dialogue programme.

The Africans have started a similar dialogue called the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID). Dr Mahathir was the first and only Asian to attend the first SAID in Botswana in 1997.

The Deputy Prime Minister who moderated a session on "Accelerating Recovery Through Smart Partnering Approach" yesterday, said the some 300 participants from 38 countries were ready to share their views and experiences in managing their respective economies.

"This certainly is proof of the success of the dialogue," he said in an interview as the four-day LID draws to a close at this island resort.

Stressing that he sensed "a very strong partnership" among the participants, Abdullah said the dialogue has also given a chance for Malaysia to explain about its economic recovery programmes.

"At the session yesterday, I was able to hear the views expressed by the various people on their role in managing their economies.

"And we also got a chance to explain what we are doing here in Malaysia, how we are managing our economy and to ensure that our economy recovers as fast as possible," he said.

Abdullah said the economic measures taken by the government has proven to be successful in putting the economy back on the path to recovery.

Participants of the LID comprising leaders of emerging economies, captains of industries, economists and academicians had given a clean bill of health to the Malaysian economy.

While the opposition claimed that the economic recovery was not real, they have said otherwise.

In fact, even before the LID commenced last Sunday, several African leaders expressed their interest in learning how Malaysia has successfully put its economy back on track.

LID officials said during the bilateral meetings with Dr Mahathir, some of the leaders had asked a prescription from the former medical practitioner on how they too could manage their respective economies.

With many years of experience as the foreign minister, Abdullah was able to adapt himself quite well with the other leaders which include Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe and Namibian president Dr Sam Nujoma.

"We were among friends," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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