

PM slams foreign media's suggestion

Malaysia does not play 'godfather' to African nations, says Mahathir

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LANGKAWI, Tues: Malaysia does not practise playing "godfather", and does not believe in dominating other countries, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Responding to suggestions from western media that Malaysia is trying to become "godfather" to African nations, Mahathir said the series moves from country to country.

"The host country usually plays the leading role, just as

Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Namibia who have all played host to the dialogue.

"It does not mean that the host is automatically a godfather," said Mahathir at the closing press conference in conjunction with the final session of the fifth Langkawi International Dialogue (LID).

On the impact of the LID, all heads of government and senior leaders present spoke in support of the dialogue, saying it is a gathering for

mutual benefit among member nations.

Present were President of Botswana Festus G. Mogae, President of Mozambique Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of Namibia Dr Sam Nujoma, South African Deputy President Jacob G. Zuma, Vice-President of Uganda Speciosa W. Kabibwe, Algerian Participation and Coordination Reforms Minister Hamid Temmar and organising spokespersons.

President of Zimbabwe Dr

Robert G. Mugabe, Prime Minister of Kyrgystan Amangeldi Mursadykovich Muraliyev, and Vice-President of Seychelles James Alix Michel attended the dialogue but left earlier.

The leaders stressed that LID is mainly about finding ways to build a better world, and that the West should not worry about the impact stemming from the dialogue.

The Global 2000-LID concluded its dialogue sessions this evening.