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LID-Globalisation

CHISSANO ON USING SMART PARTNERSHIP TO FACE GLOBALISATION

LANGKAWI, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano said the integration of developing countries through the Smart Partnership Movement would enable them to be better prepared to face the challenges of globalisation.

Through such a movement, member countries could participate in globalisation with strength, smartly and with full control of the goals that they wanted to achieve, he said.

"We should continue to attract the collaboration of our smart partners from the developed countries as we did during the liberation struggles against colonial globalisation," said Chissano at the opening of the Langkawi International Dialogue 2000 here whose central theme was smart partnership.

His speech theme was "Moving Forward from Maputo SAID 2000".

The opening was preceded by a dinner attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and heads of state and government from several African countries including President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Dr Sam Nujoma of Namibia.

He said regional integration towards combining synergies, re-resources, knowledge and experiences for harmonious development of their countries and regions would place them in a better position to face globalisation.

Chissano, whose country hosted the Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID) in August, said the liberalisation of world trade and the distorted international financial system had turned developing countries more vulnerable to the negative influences of globalisation.

He also said that it was important to master information technology (IT) to enable them to participate in the globalisation process as IT was a vital prerequisite for the survival of societies.

However, Chissano said the rapid pace of which IT changed required the allocation of massive resources for development, something that developing countries could not afford.

As such, Chissano said the Smart Partnership would help them in achieving these objectives and at the same time safeguarding particular features and qualities and identities of each of the countries.

"If we work together, we should not only fend off the problems of globalisation but also improve our potential to participate where more usually we are bypassed by those who believe we are too insignificant for real involvement," he added.

Chissano also urged participating countries to establish their own national hubs, involving communities to introduce, develop and disseminate the Smart Partnership concept.

He said it was not easy to develop such hubs because of natural resistance to change which were sometimes perceived as threats to private powers and privileges.

"However, they are essential to real progress and will function properly only when government, officials, business leaders, trade-unions, NGOs, media, academics, politicians, clergy, women, youth and children are involved as stakeholders," he added.

Chissano said discussions must be transformed into concrete and tangible programmes and projects, adding that since SAID 2000 in Maputo, the implementation of several regional projects on the basis of Smart Partnership were in progress.

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