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Chissano sees nation as voice of developing world

MALAYSIA's role as a champion of the South and of Africa is one which should be commended and emulated, said Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano.

Africa, he said, saw nothing wrong in Malaysia's move to forge closer ties with its nations and in serving as the voice for developing countries.

"Every country should do like Malaysia in becoming close and trying to understand Africa," he told reporters after a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Chissano was asked his views on Western perceptions that Malaysia was attempting to emerge champion of African nations.

Conceding that globalisation had instilled fear in many emerging economies, he said his discussions with Dr Mahathir included the need to co-ordinate many issues which were global in nature.

"There have been many views expressed at this dialogue and we may need to hold another forum to go deeper into some issues.

"But what is important is that we need a common voice and one which is not negative, but a realistic one which promotes common understanding in the world in facing globalisation."

(END)