

21 NOV 2000  
LID-BILATERAL  
LESOTHO WANTS TO SET UP EMBASSY IN MALAYSIA

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

LANGKAWI, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Lesotho wants to set up an embassy in Malaysia to strengthen the existing bilateral relations in a move which embodies the tangible results of the smart partnership advocated by the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID).

Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili indicated this to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a meeting held on the sidelines of the LID 2000 here today.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary-General Datuk Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak said Lesotho felt that the setting up of the embassy could enhance bilateral cooperation and facilitate their participation at LID.

"We will look into this," said Ahmad Fuzi, who was present during the meeting.

Mosisili, who invited Dr Mahathir to visit Lesotho, said his country was impressed with Malaysia's handling of the recent economic crisis.

He also wanted to step up scientific, economic and technical cooperation with Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir also held bilateral talks with Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma and Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano today.

Ahmad Fuzi said Namibia and Mozambique were keen to get more Malaysians to invest in their countries.

He said the prime minister also offered Malaysia's assistance to help the two countries secure Japanese funding for infrastructure projects if they could provide details of the projects.

Chissano proposed that a regular exchange of high-level visits be made between the two countries and requested Malaysia's assistance for police training under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

He also suggested that greater cooperation be made between Asean and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said Ahmad Fuzi.

Besides Mozambique, the other SADC members at LID 2000 are Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Ahmad Fuzi said Dr Mahathir indicated that he would raise the possibility of enhancing Asean-SADC ties at the Asean Informal Summit in Singapore this week.

-- BERNAMA  
AZZ SHY YBY