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LID-LEADERS
LID 2000 MAKES A DEEP IMPACT ON INFO SHARING

LANGKAWI, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) 2000 has made a deep impact on efforts towards sharing information and comparing performances between governments in the smart partnership movement.

Botswana President Festus G. Mogae said that during the two-day dialogue, the leaders gained knowledge from each other concerning a country's economy, social and cultural areas.

As for Botswana, he said that the country had learned a great deal from Malaysia.

"For instance, we want to emulate Malaysia's experience in the operation and management of its information superhighway," he told a press conference at the end of the leaders' dialogue of LID 2000 here.

Malaysia is embarking on the ambitious Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) initiative, the 50 km times 15 km area linking KL City Centre, the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and Putrajaya.

Mogae also said that the eight participating heads of government in the smart partnership dialogue had learned how to have a common stand in addressing globalisation issues.

"We do not have to give up (in addressing and going through the process of globalisation), because we have within ourselves certain capabilities," he said.

Lesotho prime minister Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili said LID 2000 was an effective follow-through forum from the previous Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID) in August.

"It is a viable and pragmatic forum where partners governments cross-capitalised ideas and discuss subjects of national progress for a review," he said.

He also said that leaders had expressed satisfaction on the set up of national hubs in respective countries.

The smart partnership concept and practise, meanwhile, had worked out well in various countries, Mosisili said.

"Remarks by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in respect of prosper-thy-neighbour and win-win situation, are widely accepted by the respective governments," he added.

Mosisili noted that people in the respected countries in the smart partnership movement had taken a significant step to respect the wisdom of smart partnership.

They are starting to gain from such a concept, he added.

Jacob G. Zuma, vice president of South Africa, said that LID 2000 is a unique forum, informal and with no specific constraint.

"Here (in LID 2000) people are able to speak openly which leads to a quicker and better understanding," he said.

Zuma also praised the initiative taken by the media to establish the Southern News Network which will enable exchange of information and news for the respective countries in the smart partnership movement.

Discussions and dialogues had also been fruitful and this indicated that the "smart partnership hopes and aims" would turn into reality.

Vice president of Uganda, Speciosa Mandira Kazibwe, said that what made LID 2000 unique was the demonstration of technology.

"This has made us (countries in the smart partnership movement) realised that we are living in another era and we must join hands with the

new generation to move our economy forward," she said.

Against this background, she noted the emerging importance of incorporating young people into the dialogue.

"So that together with youth, the news (through the proposed Southern News Network) we are going to share with you and (also) to make it known to the young generation which will one day constitute the majority of the people in the developing nations," Kazibwe said.

She said that the future is with the young generation. They are the ones who would come on board to take up the new technologies and plan for their own future.

"This dialogue will be more exciting next time in Kampala (the capital of Uganda) if more youths are to join," the vice president said. -- BERNAMA

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