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LID-VISION

LID: SMART PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT SPURS OTHERS TO EMULATE VISION 2020

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LANGKAWI, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- The Smart Partnership concept incorporated in the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) has not only boosted relations between governments and private sector but has also spurred other countries to emulate Malaysia's Vision 2020.

Through the LID, which enters its fifth edition this year and its "sister" dialogue namely the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID), Malaysia's Vision 2020 has become a model for other countries, especially some African nations who are members of the two dialogues.

The vision, a brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was launched in February, 1991 with the ultimate aim of making Malaysia a fully developed nation by the year 2020.

The Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM), in its report released on the eve of LID 2000 here, said that Mauritius, Mozambique, Ghana, Botswana, Swaziland and Malawi have charted their own long term visions.

Mauritius, Mozambique, Ghana and Malawi have Vision 2020 while Botswana and Swaziland have created Vision 2016 and 2022, respectively, all made possible through the Smart Partnership concept.

The London-based CPTM and Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) are the joint organiser of LID 2000.

Mauritius' long term vision was conceived in the context of preparing the country to cope better with challenges likely to arise from globalisation and liberalisation of international trade in the wake of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT)/Uruguay round of negotiations.

In 1993, a contract was signed with CPTM's predecessor, the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Technology Management, to extend technical assistance to help Mauritius in the development of a vision and provide overall supervision.

Botswana's Smart Partnership Hub was established following the SAID in 1997 and its activities are to be associated through implementation of Vision 2016.

Ghana has no Smart Partnership Hub but has developed a vision which main objective is to transform the nation into a middle-income country by 2020. The vision recognises the pivotal role that the private sector would play in the realisation of that objective.

CPTM said that Malawi has in place a Vision 2020 which was formulated after extensive consultation with all stakeholders in the country and the process was modelled on the Malaysian experiences.

Swaziland launched its national development strategy, Vision 2022 last year following the participation of the country's King and Prime Minister in all smart partnership dialogues since 1997. -- BERNAMA

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