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`Malaysia can do more to enhance S. Africa's economy'

MALAYSIA's role in helping southern African nations transform their economic structures for the better has been underscored yet again by the South.

One mode of assistance Malaysia could accord its southern African partners is via increased participation of its private sector in these countries, an African leader yesterday said.

South Africa's Deputy President Jacob Zuma, who acknowledged Malaysia's role in enhancing development in his country, said more could be done.

"When it comes to South-South relations, Malaysia can play a greater role in changing the quality of life for southern African nations," he told reporters after paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Dr Seri Mahathir Mohamad on the sideline Global2000-LID.

Zuma said apartheid had resulted in wide economic and social disparities among his country's population.

"We need to change the landscape of poverty, while we go about charting development in an integrated and sustainable manner."

On his talk with the Prime Minister, Zuma said apart from touching on existing bilateral ties, the two leaders also explored ways on how more smart partnerships could further cement the links established between South Africa and Malaysia.

This, he said, could take the form of increasing the presence of Malaysian investors in South Africa.

Global changes and how best to meet the related challenges were also discussed by the two leaders.

Besides Zuma, Dr Mahathir also received Seychelles Vice-President James Alix Michel and Uganda's Vice-President Dr Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe.

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