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`Malaysia Boleh' spirit spreads to partners

THE Malaysia Boleh spirit, which has spurred Malaysians to soar to greater heights, has spread to its smart partners.

The Global 2000-Langkawi International Dialogue appears to have driven home the message among some leaders that the shackles of colonialism which they have endured for many decades are a thing of the past if they choose to believe so.

Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano yesterday paid tribute to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who has regularly reminded Malaysians that they are indeed capable and can take on the world. He has convinced southern African nations that they too can do the same.

Recalling a conversation with Dr Mahathir and South African Deputy President Jacob G. Zuma, Chissano said:

"Prime Minister (Dr) Mahathir told us the reason why Malaysia and its people are successful. It is because they have been convinced that they are capable," he told delegates at a concluding dialogue session of the LID yesterday.

And this notion, he said, rang true in South Africa where apartheid was now a thing of the past and its people were now living in equality.

Dr Mahathir had said "it is wrong to say we cannot do things because of the colour of our skin".

One's abilities, the Prime Minister said, depended on his skills and not on his skin colour or looks.

"Anyone can do anything as long as they have the right values," Dr Mahathir said.

He said investors were more interested in developing countries which adopted the paradigm shift that they could achieve almost anything.

In drawing from the smart partnership concept espoused by Malaysia in prospering its developing neighbours in the face of globalisation, Chissano likened globalisation to a "forced partnership which may not always be smart".

"It is our duty therefore to create a smart globalisation."

But do emerging economies have what it takes to make this happen?

"Yes, we do," Chissano said.

(END)