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LID-MULTIMEDIA
MDC TOUCHES BASE WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

LANGKAWI, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) is discussing with several southern African countries the possibility of assisting them in the field of information technology.

MDC Executive Chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said although these countries were poor, they could still make it in the IT era if they made a start.

Leaders of the southern African countries attending the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID 2000) here today visited an MDC exhibition showcasing Malaysia's achievements in IT.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad accompanied the leaders on the visit.

"The whole idea is we (Malaysia) have made a start. What they have seen here is the progress we have made in the last four-and-a-half years," said Dr Othman Yeop. The LID was started five years ago to harness the smart partnership concept.

The exhibition is also to enable these countries to see some of the technologies they can adopt and which Malaysia can customise for them.

"I had a discussion with Lesotho, for example, not just to sell but to help them and raise their productivity," he said.

The exhibition can also encourage collaboration at the business level so that the countries can work together to develop technology.

"By looking at all these, they think that we are so far ahead but four-and-a-half years ago, we were nowhere," he said.

Dr Othman Yeop said MDC was touching base with the delegations of a number of countries at the LID, like Algeria and Mozambique which will visit the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) before going home.

The MSC is a 15km by 50km area that includes the Technology Park, the KL International Airport and Putrajaya, the federal government's administrative centre. -- BERNAMA

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