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SAID-OMAR

OMAR CALLS FOR THE SETTING UP OF CENTRAL HUB FOR SMART PARTNERSHIP

MAPUTO, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Science adviser to the prime minister, Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman yesterday called for the formation of a co-ordinating centre or central hub for smart partnership activities of the government and private sectors of Malaysia.

Dr Omar who is SAID 2000 (the Southern Africa International Dialogue 2000) joint dialogue convener, said smart partnership as practised over the years through the Malaysia Incorporated (Malaysia Inc) concept had been multi-faceted.

This could be seen through the round table discussion approach of some government departments, he said citing the pre-budget dialogue sessions of the ministries of finance and of international trade and industry.

"Maybe now is the time for us to consolidate all these activities so that the activities can be synchronised and harmonised," he said when briefing Malaysian journalists on the SAID 2000.

The central hub which could be established at the Prime Minister's Department or part of MIGHT (Malaysia Industry Group for High Technology) would collect and document these activities to enable sharing of information with other people, he said.

"In SAID dialogue, we call this hubbing and webbing," he said stressing that was how people of the southern Africa region could easily pick up on Malaysia's experience in practising smart partnership.

Dr Omar said the southern African leaders, after two or three years of attending SAID and Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) had seen the relevance of having smart partnership in their respective countries.

"This is a success that we can feel proud of," he said pointing to Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and Malawi which had either set up or were planning to establish a smart partnership hub in their respective countries.

He also said that smart partnership, being an old concept, needed to be applied in a new context where under the current economic condition, developing countries should be unified with one voice.

In tackling issues like globalisation and the setting up of a new international financial architecture, a special group had to be nurtured so that developing countries could have a better chance of being heard, he added.

On another note, he said the smart partnership platform provided through SAID, had made it easier for Malaysian companies like Petronas and Telekom to invest in the southern African region.

As such Dr Omar called on Malaysian private sectors to take full advantage of the dialogue to build business network and explore business opportunities.

The three-day SAID 2000 starting on Aug 20, would be attended by head of states and officials of the private sectors from the southern African region and Malaysia.

The Malaysian delegation would be led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

SAID 2000 is the fourth SAID to be held. Modelled after the LID, the first SAID was held in Kasane, Botswana in 1997, followed by Swakopmund, Namibia the following year and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe last year.

The theme of this year's dialogue is "Smart Partnership-Global Trends in Emerging Economies."

SAID 2000 is jointly organised by the Commonwealth Partnership for
Technology Management and SAID 2000 National Task Force of
Mozambique.--BERNAMA
MAD KTC