

18 NOV 2000

LID-SIVA

SMART PARTNERSHIP EVIDENT IN GOVT-UNION TIES IN MALAYSIA

LANGKAWI, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has become a model in this region for the forging of cooperation between the government and workers unions through the smart partnership concept, a union centre official said today.

Cuepacs president N. Siva Subramaniam said the close ties between the government and unions had gained the attention of other countries in the region as it was a unique situation.

"They were somewhat surprised that frequent dialogues were held between the government and workers unions," he said when contacted in Kuala Lumpur.

Siva said Cuepacs, the umbrella body of public sector unions, held frequent meetings with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and ministries to discuss worker issues.

Apart from sitting in the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) and National Economic Consultative Council (NECC), worker representatives are also involved in information technology programmes.

This showed that cooperation through the smart partnership concept was vital in national development, he said.

"We are proud of this achievement as the cooperation established through smart partnership with the government has brought plenty of benefits to the workers," he said.

Such cooperation was vital as workers played a big role in the country's development, he said.

He said the smart partnership concept advocated by the Langkawi International Dialogue was applicable in various aspects of cooperation in the era of globalisation. -- BERNAMA

NH YBY