

Dr M, Mbeki provide push to developing world

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KAMPALA, Mon.--- We “probably have the best opportunity to harmonise two of the better thought-out blueprints for economic and social emancipation of the less-developed world at our feet.

The SMART partnership dialogue taking place at Munyonyo, just outside Kampala, is graced by some of the best socio-economic thinkers and statesmen, reports Uganda’s *New Vision* newspaper.

The combination of political leaders and technocrats gives the SMART (sustainable, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) endeavour a very sound footing that should ensure results in the various spheres it aims at.

But, perhaps, most propitious for Munyonyo 2001 is the presence of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and South African President Thabo Mbeki.

The two statesmen have made marks on history as the champions of growth and development in the developing world. Mbeki is the ar-

chitect of the African Renaissance, an endeavour that aims at using South Africa’s economic and political muscle to help Africa out of the mire.

Dr Mahathir, on the other hand, apart from being midwife at SMART’s birth at the 1995 Commonwealth Summit in his country, has been at the helm of one of the Asian “Tigers” for 20 years.

The miracle that is Malaysia today, a country at par with (backwardness) Uganda 40-odd years ago, owes a lot to his ability to harness abundant natural resources with enterprise to create an industrialised society.

SMART and the African Renaissance ultimately have similar objectives.

They can complement each other as Mbeki and Dr Mahathir, heads of two of the globe’s leading emerging economies, use their considerable clout and vision to give the developing world the energy and leadership so critical for future prosperity. — SNNi/New Vision