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Bahrain-Malaysia

MALAYSIA A MODEL FOR THIRD WORLD GUIDANCE, SAYS BAHRAIN LEADER

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa said Malaysia's "miracle economy" and "dynamic development" served as a model for Third World guidance.

Shaikh Khalifa paid tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, whom he described as the prime architect of Malaysia's economic and social transformation.

"I see this country as a civilised role model for Third World guidance. What Malaysia has achieved in the astonishingly short time span of 20 years is nothing short of a miracle.

"There is no doubt that Dr Mahathir's leadership has been the dynamo of this renaissance," he said in his comments to the Bahrain journalists here yesterday on the second day of his three-day visit to Malaysia.

In his comments which was published by Bahrain's Gulf Daily News today, Shaikh Khalifa said he was very much impressed by everything he had seen and looked forward to long-standing sound links in both trade and ideas.

"Bahrain, as a moderate developing country, will do its best to learn from Malaysia's experience in order to equip itself to meet global economic challenges in the new millennium," he said.

Shaikh Khalifa also confirmed that the Bahrain Government welcomed any business venture and any exchange of information with Malaysia that would enhance the future development of both countries.

He said he was impressed with Malaysia's modernisation and sustained economic progress.

Shaikh Khalifa also praised Dr Mahathir's role in fostering Islam.

"Islam is a very moderate religion, therefore moderate Muslims truly represent the essence of Islamic values, and Dr Mahathir is undoubtedly one of its dedicated disciples," he said

The Premier said Bahrain and other Gulf countries enjoyed excellent relations with Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AHH SK