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Partnership

SMART PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE TO FOCUS ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

PUTRAJAYA, May 26 (Bernama) -- The Global 2001 Smart Partnership International Dialogue (Global 2001) to be held in Kampala, Uganda, from Aug 18 to Aug 21 will focus on the issue of attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs), Uganda's Minister in Charge of Presidency Dr Ruhukana Rugunda said today.

He said that the dialogue, themed "Enhancing the Climate for Foreign Direct Investment through Smart Partnership", would discuss among others Malaysia's experience in attracting FDIs to the country.

Rugunda, who is also the Dialogue's joint convener, said that Malaysia had a proven track record in attracting FDIs and would be the best source for African countries to learn how to create a conducive climate for more FDIs.

According to Rugunda, many African countries had tried hard to attract more FDIs into the continent but failed to do so, largely because of the negative perspective being portrayed on Africa.

"But actually the condition is changing in Africa today. We want to learn from Malaysia," he told the media after attending a meeting between the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) Fellows, the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) representatives and representatives of several African countries.

The preparatory meeting for the Global 2001 at the Prime Minister's Office here was chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Rugunda said the Global 2001 would see the active participation of the private sector, labour, academicians and the media.

The idea of Smart Partnership where the government, private sector, labour, the media and other groups come together to work for mutual prosperity was initiated by Dr Mahathir and the first such dialogue was held in Langkawi in 1995.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Global 2001 joint executive group, Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, said other issues related to investment such as intellectual property rights, issue of land ownership and investment risk would also be on the agenda.

He said this was the first time the Dialogue would be held outside Southern Africa.

According to Dr Omar, the Global 2001 would embrace the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) and the Southern Africa International Dialogue (Said).

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