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LID-Seychelles

DR M, A ROLE MODEL FOR DEVELOPING AND UNDER-DEVELOPED NATIONS

By: S. Retnanathan

LANGKAWI, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been described as a shining example of what an enlightened leader can do to bring about development to a nation and sustain it for the benefit of the people by Seychelles Vice-President James Alix Michel.

"Other countries in the Third World have a lot to learn from Malaysia's experiences. In fact, I myself and my country, being close to Malaysia, have learnt a lot. We are learning and I think we can continue to share experiences and learn from the achievements of Malaysia," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Global 2002 Langkawi International Dialogue (Global 2002 LID) today.

Global 2002 LID will end today after three days of dialogue sessions on the smart partnership movement at the Pelangi Beach Resort on this resort island.

Asked what he expected from future LIDs without Dr Mahathir as the head of government, Michel said the LID would continue to play an important role for exchange of ideas even after the prime minister had retired.

Dr Mahathir will leave office in October next year.

"I think the prime minister (Dr Mahathir) is innovative. LID will have a very important role to play even though he will no longer be prime minister. His wisdom, I think, will be very important for the future of the movement," Michel said.

This morning, he said, the Global 2002 LID discussed the need for leaders, who were no longer in office, to continue their active participation in future smart partnership dialogues.

He said their experiences and wisdom would ensure more enlightened meetings in future.

Michel was confident Malaysia would continue to host smart partnership dialogues despite Dr Mahathir's departure from office next year.

"I think Malaysia will have a very dominant role to play in ensuring LID continues to fulfil its role in getting countries together to bring about development in our respective countries," he said.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's Minister of Energy and Mineral, Daniel A.N. Yona, said Dr Mahathir's words of wisdom in the international arena were what a lot of African nations wanted to say but could not.

"African nations are learning much from Dr Mahathir's wisdom because it is good to have someone who cautions you to be careful in this rough world," he said.

He said this sort of advice was very good as "nobody gives us this kind of advice."

Asked if the African nations were afraid of retaliation from the West due to their close ties with Malaysia, he said there was no such retaliation from the West for being friends of Malaysia.

He also said Tanzania was keen to learn from Malaysia's experience in developing the country, which had become the envy of many.

-- BERNAMA

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