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LID-Tanzania

TANZANIA LOOKS TO "MALAYSIA BOLEH" SPIRIT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LANGKAWI, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Tanzania is inspired by the "Malaysia Boleh" (can do) spirit and hopes to emulate it in developing its economy, said Tanzanian Energy and Minerals Minister Daniel Yona.

"I hope it is an `infectious disease', then we can catch it and stay with it," he told Bernama on the sidelines of the third and final day of the Global 2002 Langkawi International Dialogue (Global 2002 LID) here today.

Given its political and social stability, he said the East African country had the ingredients to succeed in the economic field along the lines of Malaysia's developed-nation target of "Vision 2020".

"What we have in Tanzania, we copied yours and we call ours 2025. We think by 2025 we'll be where you are now but you'll be much higher," said Yona, who is leading the Tanzanian delegation to the dialogue.

He said Tanzania's 2025 vision started about two years ago and many Ugandans have come to Malaysia to learn from the country's experience.

"Everything is the same, political stability, good leadership, natural resources and the climate is the same, why don't we move too...that's the spirit you must infect us," he said.

He hoped more Malaysian companies would invest in Tanzania which offered great potential in areas such as petroleum and gas.

A Malaysian telecommunication company and a power utility company had invested in Tanzania, a country of about 25 million people and borders Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"We have a lot of oil and gas reserves, we will be happy to discuss with Malaysian companies on exploration of both resources, onshore and offshore," he said.

He said most of the reserves were found along the coast of the Indian Ocean.

Yona, who is making his first visit to Malaysia, said his country admired the leadership of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"He is a man who stood firm for the development of his people, who lifted his people to become an independent first, to us, Malaysia is a First World country," he said.

He said Malaysia was not merely talking about South-South co-operation but had practised it.

"You are developing your own people but you also have time and resources to help others, which is a manifestation of the South-South Co-operation," said Yona.

On Global 2002 LID, he said it was an open dialogue in which everybody was free to speak their minds.

-- BERNAMA

AZZ SHY