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Mahathir-Book

NEW BOOK REINFORCES MALAYSIA-AFRICA BOND

By: Mikhail Raj Abdullah

EZULWINI (Swaziland), Aug 16 (Bernama) -- A book was launched at the ongoing Global 2003 Smart Partnership International here which is expected to further reinforce expanding relations between Malaysia and Africa.

Entitled "Malaysia-Africa Relations, Searching For Common Goals" the book is written by Dr Hamidin Abdul Hamid, a Malaysian historian who teaches African studies at Universiti Malaya.

The book was launched jointly by King Mswati III of Swaziland who is playing host to this year's dialogue and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The book stresses the vital role Dr Mahathir has played in developing the close bonds which now exist between African countries and Malaysia.

A statement issued at the launching said that the book points to the formation of G-15 and Malaysia's strong involvement in South-South cooperation as testimony of Malaysia's ties with Africa.

It also said that the last decade witnessed an increase in Malaysia's trade and investment with Africa.

Dr Hamidin says in the book that more importantly, events such as the Langkawi International Dialogue have brought the two nations together.

Ideas promoted by Dr Mahathir such as Smart Partnership, win-win cooperation and prosper-thy-neighbour were adopted by the Africans and led to the birth of the Southern Africa International Dialogue in 1997 as an offshoot of the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID).

In the book, Dr Hamidin says that Malaysia-Africa relations were dominated by common goals which were recognized in world economic, political and social relations.

"Malaysia-Africa Relations, Searching for Common Goals" is on sale at leading bookstores here and costs US\$20.

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