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LID-Mahathir

DR M: OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS NOW HAVE BETTER IDEA OF DEVT

LANGKAWI, July 30 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said leaders of developing countries who had taken part in the smart partnership dialogue like the Global 2004 Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) have a clearer understanding of the issues involved to better administer and develop their countries concerned.

The former prime minister said there were some among them who had begun to show their capability after their countries had achieved stability.

"They seem to appreciate this dialogue," Dr Mahathir said after attending one of the sessions here.

He said Malaysia should not hide anything on social development from other developing countries.

There were some developing countries which faced difficulty in attracting investment and Malaysia had taken advantage of the dialogue to explain to these countries on how to attract the attention of investors, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the dialogue had also provided an opportunity for Malaysia to explain its approach in tackling poverty through the creation of jobs.

Since LID started in 1995, he said it had also provided a lot of benefits to Malaysia in terms of forging closer relationships with the foreign leaders.

Such relationships were useful in terms of getting support from them when Malaysia offered to put up candidates for election to world bodies like the United Nations, he said.

Dr Mahathir said what was important was that the dialogue also enabled Malaysia to understand other countries better and facilitate investments from Malaysian investors to these countries.

He hoped that this year's LID would be another step forward towards strengthening ties between Malaysia and other developing countries.

"The other participating countries regard us as a role model.
They want
to know how we had developed our country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

MAM ZAI SHY