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#### Namibia invites Malaysian firms

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THE Namibian Government has extended an invitation to Malaysian companies to explore its construction, mining, farming and fishing sectors after a Malaysian company, Ramatex, made a successful venture in the textile industry.

The offer was made by Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma during an hour-long bilateral talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the sidelines of the Southern Africa International Dialogue on Thursday.

Speaking after the talks, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had plans to invest massively in Namibia several years ago but they were hampered by the 1997 financial crisis.

"We were not able to carry on then but now it can be better. He (Nujoma) likes us to be back in Namibia to exploit a lot of opportunities," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had already invested in the textile industry (Ramatex) and the company was expanding by year end and the job opportunities would be increased from 6,000 to 10,000.

Earlier, Nujoma said that Namibia appreciated Malaysia's assistance to his country.

Meanwhile, Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid said after the bilateral talks that Malaysia would be sending a trade delegation to Namibia to explore opportunities.

On the outcome of the smart partnership dialogue, Dr Mahathir said it was apparent that the developing countries were worried that they would become the next victim of the superpowers.

"Now they want to have a common stand to address the weaknesses of the United Nations," he added.

Asked what the developing countries intended to do, he said they would find ways to strengthen the UN.