

10/08/2003

South Africa wants to learn from Malaysia, says Zuma

SOUTH Africa is keen to learn from Malaysia's development success, besides fostering closer ties between both countries.

"We would like to know how Malaysia succeeded in turning things around during bad times.

"We also want to link up more Malaysian and South African companies for an exchange of ideas and experiences," South Africa Deputy President Jacob Zuma said yesterday.

Apart from existing co-operation in the telecommunications sector, more ventures could be established in other industries.

Zuma said his government would also like to see the spirit of SouthSouth co-operation further enhanced between Malaysia and South Africa.

"We have a very good relationship with Malaysia and like to strengthen it."

Zuma, who is in Malaysia for the World Peace Conference, was speaking to reporters after touring Berjaya Times Square.

He visited the place following a suggestion from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad whom he met at the conference.

Zuma said he was impressed with Malaysia's ability to undertake major construction projects as attested by Times Square, which will be officially open on Sept 29.

"This complex is a good indication of Malaysia's development.

"It is absolutely exciting. I have never seen such a mall in my life," he said.