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# Action plan reflects ideas by top local minds

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**LANGKAWI:** In another success story for Malaysia, the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) 2007's action plan has included most of the ideas mooted by the country's top minds.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said although he would not claim credit for Malaysia, it was a fact that many of the ideas came from Malaysian participants, including academics, senior government officials and chief executive officers.

"I'm happy with their participation and many of their suggestions were included in the action plan," he said at the end of the three-day event here yesterday.

To reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty, LID partner countries, most of them representing southern and eastern African nations, agreed on measures covering human capital development and capacity building.

Participating governments and the private sector can take these actions:

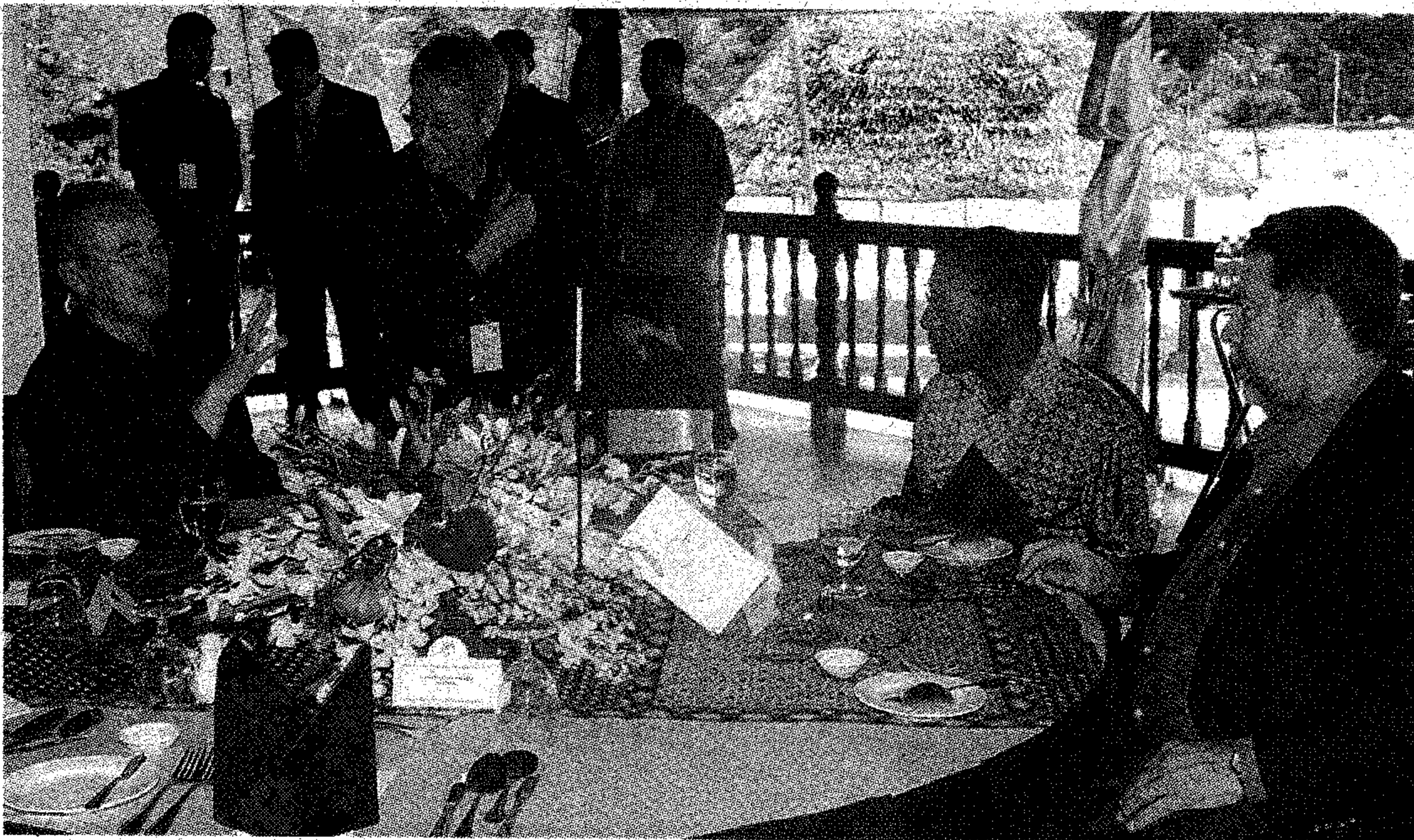
- Establish a body at the national level to co-ordinate ministries and agencies involved in poverty eradication;

- Establish centralised database systems to monitor the poverty eradication programme;

- Prioritise the goal of poverty eradication in education, health, employment and other programmes;

- Encourage participation of multinational corporations in poverty eradication, human capital development and capacity-building programmes;

- Encourage the media to raise public consciousness and awareness and to ensure fair and balanced reporting, especially when dealing with issues of development and poverty;



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi talking with (from right) with St Vincent and Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonzalez, Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili and chairman of Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Tan Sri Omar Abdul Rahman in Langkawi yesterday.

- Establish programmes for poverty eradication based on proven models that will generate economic and social benefits and impact; and,

- Establish basic target performance indicators for key issues and programmes.

The Eighth LID — attended by heads of government or state of Lesotho, Namibia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Thailand — brought 475 participants from the government, private sector, academia, media and non-governmental organisations to find solutions to poverty.

The action plan states that participants may report at the next dialogue session on progress made on projects undertaken or completed in the context of ad-

ressing poverty eradication through human capital development and capacity building.

At a news conference, Abdullah said it was an open document and it would not be legally-binding.

"But I'm sure that since many leaders and other participants are serious enough to attend (LID), some may find the action plan useful for implementation or discussions."

Participants agreed to achieve:

- Creation of jobs including self-employment by providing access to land, capital and other resources;

- Creation of a conducive environment for economic self-reliance;

- Development and provision of social services and basic infrastructure;

- Empowerment of women to promote gender equality and tap their potential for economic and social development;

- Protection of the rights of children and youth to education and health services; and,

- Good governance and effective administration to preserve social cohesion and promote social and political stability.

At a dinner yesterday, Abdullah said national efforts to eradicate poverty needed to be complemented by international action.

"Part of this international action is the process of self-help and smart partnerships which we have dedicated ourselves to promoting through the LID and similar dialogue processes in Africa."

Next year's African dialogue will be held in Lusaka, Zambia.