

# Malaysia offers expertise to help develop Afghanistan

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia has offered its expertise to help develop war-torn Afghanistan.

In making the offer, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Afghanistan could draw lessons from the Malaysian experience and decide what would be best for it.

Just like Malaysia, he said, Afghanistan could shift from an agriculture-based economy to labour intensive manufacturing before moving to high technology as well as skills and capital-intensive manufacturing.

Abdullah said this in his keynote address via a live video conferencing linking Putrajaya and Kabul which hosted the "Enabling Environment Conference - Effective Private Sector Contribution to Development of Afghanistan" yesterday.

The Prime Minister said that Malaysia would expand its cooperation with Afghanistan and provide places for trainees from the country under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

"We can focus on training modules which have relevance to the question of modernising the agricultural sector in that country," he added.

He noted that Malaysia had considerable experience in the development of small and medium scale enterprises and would be ready to share this knowledge with the Central Asian country.

"It should be possible for Afghanistan to find for itself a niche in the international market place, especially for niche products such as hand-woven carpets," he added. — Bernama