

Creating entrepreneurs

The Star - 22/4/2007

Malaysia offers expertise to African nations

WINDHOEK (Namibia): Malaysia will share its experience and expertise in developing indigenous entrepreneurs from African countries, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

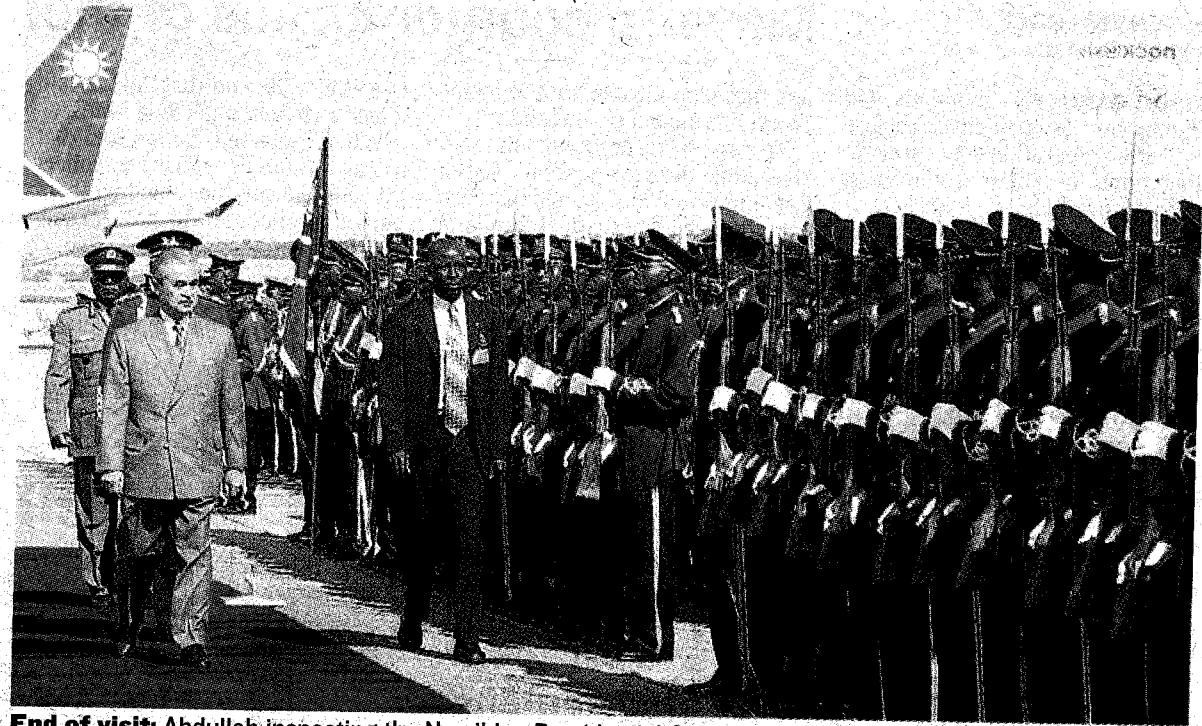
He said that several African countries, especially Namibia which had only achieved black-majority rule independence in 1990, had expressed interest in using Malaysia's New Economic Policy (NEP) as a model to build up an indigenous entrepreneur class.

"The issue has come up several times. They are very interested in this matter," he said during a press conference here on Friday night just before ending his three-day official visit to Namibia.

Abdullah said that Malaysia would offer attachment stints in Malaysia to officials from those countries where they could familiarise themselves with the policies and implementation of the NEP.

"Among the agencies and institutions which they will be attached with are those that are related to entrepreneur development, those that give loans and financial aid and those that provide management skills training," he added.

He said that this would be an expansion of the Malaysian Techni-



End of visit: Abdullah inspecting the Namibian Presidential Guard-of-Honour at the Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek, Namibia, before departing for home yesterday. — Bernama

cal Cooperation Programme, which had in the past placed 68 officials from Namibia in various public sector training institutes.

"It will now just be a question of identifying the institutions which will be asked to accept the officials for familiarisation," he said.

He added that this arrangement would enable them to gain exposure on what was needed to be done.

Abdullah said that several African countries had adopted the "Look East" policy and Malaysia was one of the countries which they looked to as an example of success.

"They see a lot of similarities between them and us and they believe that if they followed our footsteps they will also be able to succeed."

On Malaysian entrepreneurs who

faced difficulties after investing in African countries, Abdullah said that they must be able to adjust to accommodate conditions in those countries.

Abdullah's eight-day tour of Africa brought him to Sudan, Kenya and Namibia. The visit ended yesterday.

► See Nation 10
Tangible sense and sensibility