

DR M GIVES TIPS ON GOVERNANCE

NJP- 19/11/2019 pg-5

African nations must emulate successful models to boost growth, says PM

DAKAR

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad may have spent only a few hours at the conference in Africa here on Thursday but, within that timeframe, he imparted gems of knowledge and insight on governance and development that may prove useful for African nations.

The prime minister peppered his interventions at the Third International Conference on the Emergence of Africa (ICEA-III) with tips on how to go about developing a country, drawing examples from Malaysia's experience.

"One thing about developing a country is that you need to study

the development of other countries.

"In the case of Malaysia, we have the Look East Policy, learning from Japan, South Korea as well as China. We used to learn from Europe, too."

"It's important to find a suitable model that can be emulated to expedite the development process," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this was the advice he shared with African nations as he wrapped up his visit to Senegal before flying off to London.

Dr Mahathir, 93, had the distinction of being the only Asian head of government invited to take part in the Jan 17 to 19 conference focusing on the central theme of "Emergence, Private Sector and Inclusiveness".

At the Dakar gathering, Dr Mahathir took part in the high-level panel discussion, which also included Senegalese President Macky Sall and Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, as well

as a segment on the private sector as an engine of emergence.

Among the points raised by Dr Mahathir was the importance of a stable government for development to take place, noting that political instability would hinder the process.

He stressed the need for close cooperation between the government and the private sector, saying that such partnership had allowed Malaysia to develop fast.

"It's not wrong for the government to work with the private sector, helping it to succeed so that it may make a lot of profits... a lot of money because a portion of that will go back to the government," he argued against detractors of the concept.

At the opening session of the conference, a video message featuring Dr Mahathir was played, in which he said the most important thing in trying to change the economy of a country was stability and good governance.

Upon his arrival in Dakar, Dr

Mahathir headed to the Presidential Palace for talks with Sall, which focused on ways to forge closer ties between Kuala Lumpur and Dakar.

Africa, he said, had advanced so much with countries like China and Turkey becoming important trade and investment partners.

"It goes to show that Africa has potential. But we need to find out what Africa needs, what products we can import from Africa and our goods that can be marketed here," Dr Mahathir said.

Stating that he would like to see more Malaysian companies coming to Africa, Dr Mahathir said: "This is because we're supposed to be a trading nation, and a trading nation needs markets. If you don't know your market, you cannot sell anything.

"So, it's important that our people and diplomatic representatives identify areas for cooperation and trade between Malaysia and the countries concerned." **Bernama**