

Malaysia to provide technical aid to Comoros
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ECONOMIC FORUM: African nation also seeks investments in tourism and fishing industries

JOHOR BARU: THE bilateral meetings that involved Malaysia during the first day of the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) led to an extension of help in the field of technical training.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who met with Union of Comoros president Dr Ikhililou Dhoinine on the sidelines of the forum, said an agreement was reached to provide technical training to the people of the African island nation.

The training programme would be conducted in Malaysia under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, or MTCP.

"They (Comoros government) are looking for investors in the tourism sector and in terms of education, they want more places here to train their people," Najib told reporters.

Earlier, the Comoros government, through Dhoinine, invited the delegates at the forum to invest in the island nation.

Najib said Comoros needed help with investments in its tourism and downstream fishing sectors, as both held much potential.

Meanwhile, at a separate meeting between Najib and Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Tharman Shanmugaratnam, the former said they stressed on the strong bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

He said the next annual consultation between leaders of the two nations would touch on joint venture projects following the Agreement to Implement the 1990 Points of Agreement (POA) on Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad land in Singapore.

"The projects are ready to be launched. These are the iconic landmark and wellness centre that will be launched during the annual consultation, which is expected in early January and February."

On another matter, Najib said the ongoing study for a high-speed train connecting Kuala Lumpur and Singapore was still being conducted by the Land Public Transport Commission.

"Singapore endorses it in principle but it is subject to a detailed study which would be forwarded to them (Singapore) when it is completed."

Najib described the 8th WIEF in Johor Baru as among the biggest in terms of participation and international representation.

"It is a forum which transcends political and religious lines, though focused more on the economy of Muslim and non-Muslim countries."

He said the forum was a showcase for Johor's development through Iskandar Malaysia, as it saw six partnerships worth RM28 billion being witnessed yesterday.

Later at night, the Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar was guest of honour at a gala dinner in Nusajaya hosted by Najib in his capacity as WIEF Foundation patron, to celebrate the arrival of the delegates.

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