

**SPEECH BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER BY H.E. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA
AT REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
20 APRIL 2007**

Your Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba and Madam Pohamba,

Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured to be here in this beautiful land of Namibia.

2. On behalf of the Malaysian delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to you, Mr. President, the Government and the people of Namibia, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us.

3. Malaysia and Namibia have been friends for a long time, even from the time of Namibia's struggle for independence. I personally recall with fond memories those early years at the United Nations when, as Foreign Minister, I had worked closely with some members of the Government and high officials of Namibia present in New York.

4. I have now come to Windhoek to see for myself how we can collaborate further and elevate the ties between Malaysia and Namibia to a higher level. And I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the leaders and people of Namibia for the progress and prosperity they have brought to this nation.

Your Excellency,

5. I am convinced that there are vast potentials for developing economic cooperation and generating other business activities between our two countries. At the meeting between our two delegations today, we have expressed our commitment to explore new avenues, so as to broaden and deepen the substance of the relations between our two countries.

6. We have agreed to give emphasis to trade and investment. We have identified potentials for our business communities to cooperate in areas such as education, tourism, agriculture, fishing, mining and infrastructure development.

7. I have brought with me, during this official visit to Namibia, a delegation of prominent Malaysian business people from various fields. They are keen to work together with their Namibian counterparts. I am pleased to note that much enthusiasm to do so was displayed during the discussions at the Malaysia-Namibia Business Forum earlier today. I hope the Forum has served to expose new areas for trade and investment cooperation between our business communities.

Your Excellency,

8. The spirit of South-South Cooperation will remain central in Malaysia's approach to the development of relations with all countries in the South including Namibia. Malaysia will continue to extend its assistance, especially under the ambit of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), which has been a modest but concrete contribution to the building of individual and institutional capacities in Namibia.

Your Excellency,

9. South-South Cooperation is in fact already a reality. For instance, the statistics have shown that in the past few years, trade between developing countries increased at a rate twice the global average and already represents 40 percent of their exports. In Malaysia's case, the total Malaysia-Africa trade in 2005 stood at USD2.75 billion. In 2006, it jumped to USD3.303 billion, an increase of 20.3 percent.

10. Similarly, the smart partnership dialogues have made positive contributions towards fostering South-South Cooperation. I wish to commend the leaders of Namibia for their active roles in the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) and the South Africa International Dialogue (SAID). We look forward to Namibia's continued support and participation at the forthcoming LID which will be convened in August 2007.

Your Excellency,

11. I look forward to meeting you again. Tonight, I thank you for this sumptuous Banquet. And we shall always remember the warm welcome you have shown to us.

12. And now may I, in return, propose a toast to the good health of H.E. President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Madame Pohamba, to the prosperity and well being of the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia.

I thank you.