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Africa can learn from M'sia's experience in formulating effective public policies - IDEP

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) – Malaysia can become a model for many African countries in modernising their respective civil service, including formulating effective public policies for long term development, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) Director Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane said.

She said Malaysia's good track record of progress from an underdeveloped country to a sophisticated nation today – through a properly planned and implemented vision – can be emulated by other African countries.

She also commended Malaysia on its enthusiasm to share its experience in building an effective and professional public sector with other developing countries.

"We know the history of Malaysia (and) the way it is conducting its development process. There is a long term vision and it is (the vision) is articulated into development plans that are coherent, monitored and evaluated," she said.

She was met by Bernama International News Service and BNC after attending the closing ceremony for a training programme titled 'Evaluating Public Policy In Malaysia's Perspective for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning' at the National Institute for Public Administration (Intan), here, today.

Based in Dakar, Senegal, IDEP is a pan-African institution created in 1962 by the United Nations which is aimed at strengthening the capacity building of African countries' human resources.

A total of 18 senior officers from 18 African countries had participated in the one-week inaugural training programme – a collaboration between IDEP and Intan.

Karima said this was also the first time IDEP programme was held outside the African continent.

"I find the programme very rich, where there is a lot for us to learn from Malaysia's experience in term of formulating and implementation of the public policies.

"This (training programme) was a very successful first step (towards more partnerships in the future). Besides, we have seen keen interests among both sides, so I hope there will be more coming," she added.

Flavien Dagba, a programme participant holding the appointment of assistant director for the Economic Development Department in Benin, described the clear and practical programme as an eye-opener for him.

Another participant, Esmie Faith Nhlane, who is a chief economist from the Finance, Economic, Planning and Development Ministry in Malawi, said the training provided her with better insights on the needs for every public development policy to be target-driven and properly coordinated with frequent reviews in order to ensure its benefit to the people.