

# Malaysia to Pretoria: Release Mandela immediately

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Malaysia urged South Africa today to release immediately African National Congress (ANC) president and black leader Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also urged the South African Government to negotiate with the ANC for a

"democratically-elected government with the participation of the majority who have so far been denied their rightful role." 518 JUL 1983

In a statement released by Wisma Putra on the occasion of Mr Mandela's 70th birthday tomorrow, the Prime Minister said:

"We in Malaysia very much prefer

a South Africa where people from all racial groups enjoy justice, freedom, equal political rights and economic benefits.

"However, the current intransigence of the South African white minority, the introduction of draconian laws and the attempts to introduce counter power-sharing formula, cir-

cumventing the demands for majority rule, do not augur well for the future."

Dr Mahathir said the white minority regime in Pretoria and the extreme right Afrikaner population must be aware that the longer they delayed a compromise with the ANC and the release of its leaders, Mr

Mandela and others, the greater was the danger of the deepening racial conflict exploding into a racial conflagration.

"At that point, the so-called white supremacy and armed might will become impotent and meaningless."

The spirit kindled by Mr Mandela would not die, Dr Mahathir warned.