

Attempt to postpone visit by Mandela

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Government is trying to get South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela to delay his visit to Malaysia by a few days in view of the general election.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government had requested that Mr Mandela visit Brunei before coming to Malaysia.

"We like to see him come after the general election. But if it cannot be worked out, we will see him according to the schedule."

Mr Mandela is due to visit Malaysia on Oct 19 and 20 as part of his eight-nation tour starting on Oct 8.

Besides Malaysia and Brunei, the Black freedom fighter, who is deputy president of the African National Congress, is sche-

duled to visit Indonesia, the Soviet Union, Japan, France, India and Australia.

Mr Mandela was freed last February after languishing for 27 years in the white regime prisons.

Claim

Speaking at a news conference after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre, Dr Mahathir laughed off the claim by Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang that Mr Mandela's visit was timed in such a way as to boost the Barisan Nasional campaign during the general election.

"My goodness. I wish I am that all-powerful and influential to direct a world-renowned leader like Nelson Mandela to come and campaign for me."