

MANDELA-PM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 2 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY PLEDGED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE NEEDED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC).

DETAILS OF SUCH AID WOULD BE WORKED OUT LATER BY THE CABINET, HE TOLD THE VISITING SOUTH AFRICAN ANTI-APARTHEID LEADER NELSON MANDELA.

ENCIK MANDELA, THE ANC DEPUTY PRESIDENT, MET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HERE.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, DATUK ABDUL MAJID MOHAMED, WHO BRIEFED REPORTERS ON THE OUTCOME, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER PROMISED TO DISCUSS WITH THE CABINET THE SIZE AND FORM OF ASSISTANCE AND TO WORK OUT A DEFINITE PROGRAMME TO CHANNEL IT TO ANC.

ENCIK MANDELA HAD MENTIONED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONETARY HELP HE EXPECTED FROM MALAYSIA BUT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASSURED HIM THAT THE QUANTUM TO BE OFFERED HAD TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE CABINET FIRST, HE ADDED.

MALAYSIA ALSO OFFERED ITS EXPERTISE IN RELEVANT AREAS SUCH AS HOUSING, TECHNICAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES. -- MORE
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DATUK ABDUL MAJID SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE AN EXCEPTION UNDER ITS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME TO HELP THE ANC ALTHOUGH THE PROGRAMME WAS ONLY OFFERED ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT AND NEVER BEFORE TO A POLITICAL PARTY.

DURING THE MEETING, ENCIK MANDELA BRIEFED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUGHT MALAYSIA'S ASSISTANCE TO HELP ANC MEMBERS WHO HAD RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY FROM EXILE WITHOUT HOMES AND LAND OF THEIR OWN, HE ADDED.

THERE WAS URGENT NEED TO PROVIDE THEM HOUSING, EDUCATION AND JOBS, ACCORDING TO ENCIK MANDELA.

ENCIK MANDELA ALSO SAID THAT THE ANC WAS TAKING EVERY INTIATIVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TOWARDS A POLITICAL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

DATUK ABDUL MAJID SAID ENCIK MANDELA TOLD DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THAT HE REGRETTED VERY MUCH THE VIOLENCE THAT OCCURED IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HE DENIED THAT THIS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH INTER-TRIBAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE BLACK PEOPLE.

THE VIOLENCE WAS THE WORK OF SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES TO SPREAD FEAR AMONG THE PEOPLE BUT AUTHORITIES TRIED TO PAINT A PICTURE THAT THE INCIDENTS RESULTED FROM EXTREME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TRIBES, ACCORDING TO ENCIK MANDELA. -- MORE
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DATUK ABDUL MAJID SAID ENCIK MANDELA CALLED THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES A +DEATH SQUAD WHO DID NOT DISTINGUISH WHOM THEY KILLED+.

ENCIK MANDELA ALSO SAID THE WHITES IN THE SECURITY FORCES DID NOT WISH TO SEE THE ANC GROW STRONGER AND SUCCEED IN ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS SEEKING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

HE ADDED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DONE ENOUGH TO CONTROL THE VIOLENCE.

DATUK ABDUL MAJID SAID ENCIK MANDELA INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER OF HIS PLAN, ON HIS RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA, TO LEAD THE ANC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO A MEETING WITH THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY COMMITTEE LED BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI TO DISCUSS THE CARNAGE IN THE

COUNTRY'S TOWNSHIP. -- BERNAMA
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