

KL pledges support

By SHARIF HARON

MALAYSIA has pledged to continue supporting the struggle of black South Africans against the apartheid regime in their country. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the imposition of sanctions against South Africa must also go on until all the oppressed are liberated.

"We will continue to play an active role in all forums such as the Commonwealth and the United Nations. We will apply as much pressure against the South African Government as before," he said.

BT 3 - NOV 1990

The Prime Minister was addressing a rally at Stadium Negara in Kuala Lumpur to welcome visiting African National Congress (ANC) deputy president Nelson Mandela, who is on a four-day visit to Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysians look forward to the day when South Africa joins the Commonwealth, adding that Malaysia will be willing to propose South African membership when the time comes.

"The people of Malaysia support your
Cont'd Back Page, Col. 1

3 - NOV 1990

■ FROM PAGE ONE

struggle. We hope you achieve your goal," the Prime Minister added.

He said Malaysia loses money by not having trade with South Africa, but the country believes it is a worthwhile sacrifice. "We have no regrets. We believe what we do is not only good for the blacks in South Africa, but also for democracy. Therefore we will continue with the sanctions," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said efforts by Malaysia alone could not be effective because it is a small country. But as Malaysia was joined by practically all other Commonwealth members, a result has been the release of many political prisoners and proponents of apartheid have started to act more like civilised people.

He said he realises the problems in multi-racial South Africa because Malaysia shares this similarity. He said Malaysians are fortunate because there is a degree of racial harmony and peace, something which many countries envy.

"We feel that in South Africa, it should also be the same," the Prime Minister said, adding that South Africans should then concentrate on exploiting their rich resources to become the most powerful and wealthiest country in the whole of the African continent.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir described Mr Mandela as a leader who has been steadfast in his struggle to achieve racial equality in South Africa, adding that "he is a man who has withstood all kinds of oppression."

The Prime Minister said Mr Mandela had emerged from the political wilderness "neither bro-

ken nor beaten". He remains strong in his belief that the multi-racial people of South Africa should be equal before the law and free from apartheid.

He added Mr Mandela is not a racist who wanted to oppress other races and establish black supremacy. Neither is he "anti-white because they are white."

The Prime Minister said all races should have equal roles and live peacefully together with the majority allowed to take active part in decision-making and at the same time the minority is not oppressed.

Mr Mandela, who had arrived at the stadium to the thunderous beating of the kompang and rebana, said in the course of the ANC struggle, "we were inspired by your freedom fighter, Tunku Abdul Rahman, your first Prime Minister".

Describing Malaysia as one of the leading anti-apartheid countries in the world, he said when Malaysia broke its ties with South Africa, the country spearheaded efforts against the apartheid regime. "We salute you!"

Mr Mandela said he realises the pressure Malaysia, in supporting the anti-apartheid movement, is subjected to by the industrialised countries, but added that "your actions strengthen our organisation".

Relating the situation within South Africa, Mr Mandela said the aim of his struggle was not to reform apartheid but stressed that the ANC is adamant that "one man one vote is ensured and this is in conformity with all standards of democracy." He hastened to add that this is a "non-negotiable condition for us."

Present at the rally were Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and government officials.