

Malaysia gives \$13.5m aid to ANC

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Malaysian Government has contributed US\$5 million (M\$13.5) to the African National Congress to help the ANC in its struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa.

This was announced tonight by black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela at a dinner in his honour hosted by the Barisan Nasional at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Mr Mandela, who spoke after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed addressed the gathering, said Dr Mahathir had agreed to give the financial aid to the ANC in addition to other forms of support pledged so far.

"The only thing that we need is money," he said, adding that the ANC appreciated the moral support as well as material aid it had received over the years.

Also present at the dinner were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Earlier, at a Press conference, Mr Mandela described his visit to the Asia Pacific region as successful.

He said he had received good response from the various Governments.

"My visit to Malaysia is highly successful. My mission here was to brief Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the political development in South Africa.

"Malaysia, since the 1960s, has been the foremost country in exerting pressure on the South African regime to abolish apartheid ... So it is only proper that our closest friends should be authoritatively briefed," he said.