

Lifting sanctions will hurt reform, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. —
The lifting of sanctions by the international community during the present transition period in South Africa would undermine the progress made thus far towards the dismantling of apartheid in the region, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"Until more concrete actions are taken by the South African regime, Malaysia would continue to urge the international community to maintain economic and other sanctions," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said this in his message in conjunction with the Eighth Senior Officials Meeting of the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid (Africa) Fund which begins here tomorrow.

The meeting will be opened by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The lifting of sanctions against South Africa should be conditional and based on the actual progress made by the Pretoria regime to dismantle apartheid, the Prime Minister said, adding that the promises made by the regime to dismantle apartheid, by themselves, should not merit lifting of sanctions.

As such, Malaysia would continue to urge the international community to maintain the sanctions until more concrete actions were taken by the regime.

"It is important to ensure that the international community does not lose sight of the fact that apartheid is very much with us," Dr Mahathir said.

The anti-apartheid cause must not be relegated to the backburner despite the world's preoccupation with other issues, he added.

PLEASE TURN TO
P2, COL 5

Fund needs continued assistance

FROM PAGE ONE

He also urged the international community to contribute to the Africa fund which is needed to help the frontline States prepare for nation building in a post-apartheid era.

Eighty per cent of cash pledges and 65 per cent of contributions in kind to the fund have been disbursed.

The fund will not be able to fully achieve its objectives without further support and assistance from the international community, Dr Mahathir said.

He said the fund, which began as a tangible expression of the Non-Aligned Movement's solidarity with the people of South Africa, remains valid in the wake of the current global situation.