

# Dr M heads group of 11 on South Africa

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## From Calvin Goh

HARARE, Mon. — Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri~~ Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been elected to head a group of 11 Commonwealth Heads of Government to seek ways to bring an early solution to the South African question.

Apart from the 10 Heads of Government who were previously concerned with finding new directions of the Commonwealth, the group of 11 includes Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, the current chairman of CHOGM.

This was disclosed by Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku. Chief Anyaoku said he would report to the Group his findings from his visit to South Africa to look into ways the Commonwealth can assist in lending momentum to the negotiating process by the parties

there for an end to apartheid.

While there, Chief Anyaoku will have talks with the principal parties in the country. He is to leave for South Africa at the earliest possible opportunity.

Dr Mahathir's appointment comes soon after his position as the head of the High-Level Appraisal Group (HLAG).

Earlier, in a briefing for journalists on the weekend retreat of the Heads of Government at Victoria Falls, Chief Anyaoku said he has had preliminary consultations with the South African Government, the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress on his proposed visit.

He will be contacting other parties and groups concerned with apartheid in South Africa soon.

Chief Anyaoku said: "I am glad to say that in the light

of this consultation so far, I will visit South Africa at the earliest possible opportunity."

At their retreat, the Heads of Governments welcomed the important changes taking place in South Africa over the last 20 months.

"They believe that these developments brought into sight the goal of a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

"But they have been concerned at the escalation of violence and its possible effects on the process of negotiations."

They called on the South African Government and all parties in South Africa to bring the violence to an end as a matter of utmost urgency.

The Heads of Government believe that the Commonwealth must be ready to assist the negotiating process in ways that could be found helpful.