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Mandela

MANDALA WANTS TO SHARE MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3r (Bernama) -- African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela wound up a brief working visit here today with a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and praised Malaysia's rapid progress.

He said Malaysia had shown a high standard of excellence in building its economy and promoting peace and stability in the region.

"We want to share Malaysia's experience in housing construction, education and tackling problems such as unemployment," he told a press conference before heading for the airport to catch a midnight Malaysia Airlines flight to Johannesburg.

"We have a lot to learn from Malaysia," said the 75-year-old anti-apartheid leader who is preparing his ANC party for the first non-racial South African election scheduled for April 27 next year.

He briefed Dr Mahathir on the current political situation in South Africa. -- more

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Mandela 2 Kuala Lumpur

Describing Dr Mahathir as one of ANC's strongest supporter, Mandela said the Prime Minister responded "positively and constructively" to its request. He did not elaborate.

Asked if he made any specific request for financial assistance, Mandela said: "I put in the entire situation to the PM and his reponse to the entire representation I made were very constructive."

Asked to elaborate on the response he had received worldwide following a recent report that the ANC needed US\$43 million (RM110 million) to contest the election, he said that his arithmetic was bad but that the response had been "very good."

He had travelled to the United States and conducted fund-raising campaigns back home for the ANC since the election date was decided last month.

Mandela said he spoke with President F.W. de Klerk over the phone today and exchanged views on ways to stop the prevailing unrest in the country.

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Mandela 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"We will continue to exchange views on the matter," he said. Mandela said he would also consult other political leaders involved in the country's negotiation process.

While the slaughtering of innocent people "by those who fear democracy" was a grave concern, Mandela said the political leaders "should not lose their cool."

"It is important for those committed to pull South Africa out of the present mess to necessarily approach this question very calmly," he said.

Mandela said he indicated to de Klerk during their telephone conversation that the security forces was involved in the violence.

This was based on the information given to him by a "responsible ANC official", Mandela said. He would investigate the matter further when he gets home. -- Bernama

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▼04/08/01-03MST