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MANDELA WANTS MAHATHIR'S PRESENCE AT SWEARING-IN OF PRESIDENT

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CAPE TOWN (South Africa), April 3 (Bernama) -- African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela has said he hopes that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the swearing-in of the country's president if the ANC gets to form the government in South Africa after the first general election scheduled for April 26 to 28.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today Mandela very much hoped for Dr Mahathir's presence at the ceremony, which has been scheduled for May 10, if he becomes the South African president.

"The ANC feels indebted to Dr Mahathir and the government of Malaysia for the aid and assistance to the party," he told Bernama after calling on Mandela here last night.

Najib said Mandela had expressed his appreciation to Dr Mahathir for all the assistance to the ANC and he (Najib) had been asked to convey the message to Dr Mahathir.

Mandela also thanked Najib for his expressed support for the ANC when he spoke at the tri-centennial celebrations of the coming of Islam to South Africa. -- Bernama *

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03/04/15-58MST