

12 MAR 1996  
South Africa  
OUR HELP SOUGHT TO TRAIN SOUTH AFRICANS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- South Africa is keen to get Malaysia's assistance to create business-savvy youths and competent public servants, Minister at the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha said today.

He said visiting South African Minister of Public Administration and Services, Dr Zola Skweyiya had requested Malaysia to provide training programmes in administration, technical and business matters.

"We are prepared to offer whatever help we can to help reconstruct South Africa," he told reporters after meeting Dr Skweyiya, here. Prior to that Dr Skweyiya had called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abang Abu Bakar, who accompanied the South African to his meeting with Dr Mahathir, added that the prime minister told Dr Skweyiya that South Africans were welcome to train at the various training facilities in Malaysia.

He said the African nation was interested to create self-reliant black youths by turning them into entrepreneurs.

"South Africa can send those with business acumen here for training stints with Mara or the Entrepreneur Development Ministry," he added.

He said Dr Skweyiya was also impressed with the success of Malaysia's privatisation programme and would like to learn more about it.

Abang Abu Bakar said Dr Mahathir extended an invitation to President Nelson Mandela to visit Malaysia this year.

Meanwhile, Dr Skweyiya said Malaysia had been generous in providing assistance to his country.

"Malaysia has offered everything that we want...Dr Mahathir gave the assurance that Malaysia would try to assist us within its means," he added.

Dr Skweyiya arrived here on Sunday for an eight-day visit. -- Bernama  
MAM JK