

10/03/1997

Dr M hosts private dinner for Mandela

LANGKAWI, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight hosted a private dinner for South African President Nelson Mandela at the Andaman Resort, Teluk Datai.

Also at the dinner held on the eve of Mandela's departure for Pretoria tomorrow were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, daughter Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, Mandela's companion Gracha Machel and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid.

Mandela arrived here yesterday for a two-day retreat, part of his state visit to Malaysia.

Earlier both leaders witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Umno Youth and African National Congress Youth League.

Umno Youth will offer US\$250,000 (RM625,000) in scholarships to 50 students recommended by the ANC Youth League.

Umno Youth head, Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, said tonight the students would be trained in various skills and professions in Malaysia. "This signifies our commitment to help the ANC Youth League," he said after the signing.

Ahmad Zahid and Umno Youth treasurer Mokhzani Mahathir signed on behalf of the movement while ANC Youth League signatories were its president Malusi Gigaba and its secretary-general Pemmy Majodina.

The MoU entails co-operation in the areas of education, culture, sports and economics. Zahid said the MoU marked the beginning of a friendship between Umno Youth and the ANC Youth League.

(END)