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Mahathir-Dinner

DR MAHATHIR HOSTS DINNER FOR VISITING PRESIDENT MANDELA

LANGKAWI, March 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad tonight hosted a private dinner for South African President Nelson Mandela at the Andaman Resort, Teluk Datai here.

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

Mandela arrived yesterday for a two-day retreat to this resort island as part of his five-day state visit to Malaysia.

Earlier both leaders witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Umno Youth and African National Congress (ANC) Youth League.

The MoU was to formalise the cooperation between the two youth wings in four main areas, namely education, culture, sports and economic empowerment.

Signing for Umno Youth were its chief Datuk Zahid Hamidi and treasurer Mokhzani Mahathir while ANC Youth League were represented by its president Malusi Gigaba and secretary-general Penny Mojadina.

Speaking at the ceremony, Zahid said the cooperation was mooted by Umno President Dr Mahathir.

He added initially, Umno Youth would contribute US\$250,000 (approx. RM500,000) ANS Youth League to finance the informal and formal training for 50 of the latter's members in Malaysia under the education aspect of the cooperation.

Meanwhile, Gigaba said he hoped the MoU would not only enhance the relationship between the two political organisations but also between the people of both nations.

He said both ANC Youth League and Umno Youth would hold annual meetings to evaluate the progress of the cooperation and decide on the new programmes of action.

He added that the MoU was the second of its kind to be entered by ANC Youth League with a foreign political organisation. The first was with a political movement of an African state. -- BERNAMA

MFJ AO