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S.Africa-Council

MAHATHIR, MANDELA TO LAUNCH MALAYSIA-SOUTH AFRICA BUSINESS COUNCIL

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and visiting South African President Nelson Mandela are expected to jointly launch the Malaysia-South Africa Business Council (MSABC) on Saturday.

The joint business council to promote and develop business ties between the two countries will be launched at the second South Africa-Malaysia Forum at the Istana Hotel, here.

The two leaders would unveil the inaugural plaque of the MSABC to mark its launch, MSABC pro tem committee chairman Bob Harvey said in a statement here today.

Mandela, who is leading a 115-member delegation, including several captains of industry, arrived here today to begin a five-day visit.

Harvey said the formation of the council was indicative of the importance of further promoting business links between South Africa and Malaysia.

Describing it as timely, Harvey said some 250 South African business people were based in Malaysia, the majority of whom had arrived in the last two years.

"They represent companies across a broad spectrum, from civil, electronic and telecommunications engineering and construction to manufacturing and trade," he said.

Total trade between Malaysia and South Africa amounted to RM883 million in 1995 with South African exports to Malaysia almost doubled to RM388 million, he said.

The council would, among others, organise trade missions for its members between the two countries and Asean, promote contact and discussions with prominent business leaders and conduct seminars and briefings on trade, commerce and investment.

Harvey said the MSABC would embark on a membership drive and would hold a function here on March 25 for members and prospective members.

He said individuals, companies and organisations interested to become members can contact MSABC at 03-262-5311. -- BERNAMA

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