

06 MAY 1997

Mahathir-Award

MAHATHIR TO RECEIVE SOUTH AFRICA'S ORDER OF GOOD HOPE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who recently received several international awards for his statesmanship will be honoured with another one, this time from South Africa.

Dr Mahathir will be conferred the gold award of the Order of Good Hope by President Nelson Mandela when he arrives in Cape Town from Bostwana tomorrow.

The Order of Good Hope is the highest award conferred by South Africa to foreign citizens and the gold award is only given to heads of state and in exceptional cases to heads of government.

The presentation ceremony will take pace at Genadendal, the official resident of Mandela in Capetown, according to a South Africa High Commission statement today. .

Mandela will host a luncheon for Dr Mahathir after the ceremony.

The award will be presented to Dr Mahathir in recognition of "his leading role in the promotion of the interests of the developing world and the development of South-South cooperation in the international arena."

The statement cited Dr Mahathir's long-standing involvement with South Africa, his staunch support against apartheid and his tireless efforts in promoting close bonds of friendship between Malaysia and democratic South Africa.

It also said it was largely due to Dr Mahathir's personal commitment and confidence that Malaysia had developed as South Africa's fourth largest foreign investor and major trading partner.

Dr Mahathir will fly into Cape Town after official visits to Malawi and Bostwana. He is accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and a business delegation.

The South Africa award is the latest in a string of honours received by Dr Mahathir. Before this, he was bestowed the King Faisal award (Saudi Arabia), the Jawaharlal Nehru award (India), Mubarak Al-Kabir award (Kuwait) and the Ahmad Al-Fatah award (Bahrain). -- BERNAMA

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