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MANDELA LEAVES FOR LANGKAWI

KUALA LUMPUR, March 8 (Bernama) -- South African President Nelson Mandela left for the island resort of Langkawi this afternoon for a short break after spending three hectic days in the city.

Earlier, Mandela and his companion, Graca Machel, made a farewell call on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah at Istana Negara.

In Langkawi, the South African leader will visit the Galeri Perdana and Dataran Lang tomorrow before joining Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for dinner at the Andaman Resort.

He is scheduled to leave for home on Monday.

Mandela, who is leading a 115-member delegation, including ministers, senior officials and businessmen, is on a five-day visit to Malaysia aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

His four Asean nation tour also took him to the Philippines, Brunei and Singapore.

While in Kuala Lumpur, Mandela held talks with Dr Mahathir, met with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and attended two forums -- one organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations and the other by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli). -- BERNAMA

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