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Mandela-Visit

MANDELA TO MAKE FIVE-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- South African President Nelson Mandela will make his first state visit to Malaysia for five days beginning Thursday.

According to a Wisma Putra statement today, Mandela would be accompanied by his companion, Madam Graca Machel, a 30-member official delegation and 85 representatives of South Africa's private sector.

His programme includes an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah and a delegation meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The delegation meeting will focus on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern," the statement said.

Mandela is expected to deliver a keynote address at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations on the topic "South Africa and Malaysia-A Joint Vision Towards the 21st Century" and another at the Second South Africa-Malaysia Business Forum.

The president will also deliver a speech at a luncheon hosted by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM).

He is scheduled to visit the Proton Automobile Plant in Shah Alam, the Kuala Lumpur City Centre Twin Towers and the island resort of Langkawi.

In a statement today, the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) said the business forum was aimed at promoting closer business and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The event is jointly organised by Asli, South African High Commission, the Malaysia South-South Association, the South Africa-Malaysia Business Council and the NCCIM. -- BERNAMA

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