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Mandela's address highlight of forum

SOUTH African president Nelson Mandela will deliver a keynote address at the Second South Africa-Malaysia Forum in Kuala Lumpur during his four-day state visit to Malaysia beginning March 7.

The forum, scheduled on March 8, is jointly organised by the South African High Commission in Malaysia, the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli), the Malaysia South South Association (Massa), the National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NCCIM) and the South Africa-Malaysia Business Council.

"This will be a rare opportunity for Malaysian businessmen to hear Mandela speak on the future of South Africa and business opportunities in South Africa," Asli director and executive vice-president Mr Michael Yeoh said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The forum is a follow-up to the first South Africa-Malaysia Forum, which was jointly organised by Asli and the Malaysian External Development Corp in 1995 in conjunction with the official visit to South Africa by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The second forum is aimed at enhancing bilateral relations between Malaysia and South Africa and will promote closer business and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Some 500 participants are expected to attend the forum.

It is open to all Malaysian businessmen who is interested to learn more about South Africa and business and investment opportunities available there. Businessmen will also have the opportunity to hold one-to-one meetings with their South African counterparts.

Among speakers at the forum are: South African Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Mrs Phumzile Miambo-Ngcuka, Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Mr Kerk Choo Ting, Southern Bank Bhd chief executive director Datuk T.H. Tan, South Africa's National Empowerment Trust chairman Mr Don Mkhwanazi, Investment South Africa chief executive officer Mr Rafique Bagus, SungeiWay Group corporate adviser Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, and South African Industrial Development Corp chief executive officer Mr Khaya Ngqula.

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