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NCCIM waits for Malay chambers to appoint chief

THE new president of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia will be selected once the presidency of the Malay Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia is filled.

"We will elect (the new president) from among the five (four chambers and FMM), once the Malay Chambers has selected its president," NCCIM vice-president Senator Datuk V. K. K. Teagarajan said on Saturday.

NCCIM is represented by four chambers as well as the Federation of Malaysian Manufactures. The chambers are the Malay Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Malaysia, the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Malaysia, the Malaysian Associated Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Malaysian International Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

Teagarajan spoke to reporters after the luncheon in honour of visiting South African President Nelson Mandela at Hotel Istana in Kuala Lumpur. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was also the guest-of-honour.

Earlier in his speech, he said total trade between Malaysia and South Africa in 1995 amounted to US\$476 million (RM1.18 billion), representing 0.31 per cent of Malaysia's global trade.

"Bilateral trade between our two countries has grown significantly since September 1993, with South Africa emerging as Malaysia's largest trading partner in Africa," he added.

For the first nine months of 1996, total trade stood at US\$389 million, an increase of 3.9 per cent over the same period in 1995.

Malaysia's total exports to South Africa during the first nine months last year amounted to US\$216 million compared to imports from South Africa totalling US\$174 million.

Teagarajan said the Malaysian business community believes that South Africa can be an ideal base to market their products to other countries in southern Africa.

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