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### Three pacts signed for joint projects

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THREE agreements were signed between South African companies and their Malaysian counterparts over the weekend.

The signing ceremony, graced by the visiting South African President Nelson Mandela and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was for Plessey and Jaringan Infrastruktur Sdn Bhd as well as Trakprops 31 Pty Ltd and ABI Construction Sdn Bhd.

MK Malefane Equipment (Pty) Ltd and Diversified Systems Sdn Bhd also sealed an agreement at the same occasion.

South Africa's Plessey and Jaringan Infrastruktur formalised their understanding reached a year ago to undertake the development of common telecommunications infrastructure.

A consortium of four companies, Jaringan Infrastruktur was formed to undertake a privatization project awarded by the Selangor State Government to develop a common ducting system for the use of telecommunication operators in that State.

Plessey's local subsidiary, Plestel (M) Sdn Bhd, has been appointed as the main contractor for the project.

Plessey will be handling the project management, engineering and design of the infrastructure and sub-contracting work on a turnkey basis, said its chairman Johan Wessel.

He added that his company will be bringing in experts and technology from his country for the project.

Jaringan Infrastruktur executive chairman Kamarudin Ahmad said the RM150 million project will be undertaken in three phases spreading over a period of five years.

Work covering a total of 56km should commence in June, he added.

Meanwhile, another agreement signed was between Malaysia's ABI Construction and Trakprops 31 to form a joint venture company for a mixed development project in Cape Town, South Africa.

The project cost is US\$1 billion (US\$1 = RM2.48) and covers an area of 400,000 square metres of council land which has yet to be identified, said ABI Construction managing director Mohd Zahari Abd Rahman.

He added that it will be a five year project with special attention given to an area called 'Mithchel Plain' for industrial development. Work on the project may start in September.

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