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S.African President Mbeki begins State visit on Monday

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - South African President Thabo Mbeki will make a three-day state visit to Malaysia beginning Monday.

Mbeki will be accompanied by his wife Zanele Mbeki and a 70-member delegation comprising five ministers, two deputy ministers, senior officials, businessmen and media members. The visit, the second by a South African president, is aimed at enhancing ties between the two countries.

Discussions between Mbeki and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad are expected to focus on bilateral co-operation as well as issues of mutual interest.

Mbeki will also have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and attend a State banquet at Istana Negara.

Both countries will sign an agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation, and a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a joint commission.

Mbeki will also address the Institute of Strategic and International Studies International Affairs Forum, and deliver the keynote address at a business luncheon jointly organised by the Malaysia-South Africa Business Council and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute.