



Mbeki congratulates new French president

President Thabo Mbeki joined other world leaders on Monday in congratulating French President-elect Nicolas Sarkozy on his victory in Sunday's election.

In a message of support to Sarkozy, Mbeki said: "On behalf of the South African government and people, I extend sincere congratulations to you on your election as President of the French Republic and I wish you every success in your new role.

"South Africa attaches great importance to its excellent relations with France and it is my profound wish that we will continue to strengthen our political dialogue, bilateral co-operation and the economic interaction between our two countries during your presidency," he said.

Given its historical links with the African continent, France would always be a valued interlocutor and partner in efforts to build peace and stability, strengthen democratic governance and foster social and economic development in Africa.

"I look forward to meeting with you in the foreseeable future in order to discuss future South Africa-French co-operation," Mbeki said.

Sapa

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