

20 MAR 1997

Mozambique-Welcome

MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT ACCORDED RED CARPET WELCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, who arrived yesterday for a four-day visit to Malaysia, was accorded an official welcome at Parliament Square, here, today.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Najihah, greeted Chissano and his wife, Marcelina Rafael, when they arrived for the ceremony.

They stood on a special dais as the national anthems of both countries were played amidst the firing of a 21-gun salute in honour of the visiting president. Chissano later inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 104 officers and men of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Mej Rafizi Sharif.

Cabinet ministers and members of the foreign diplomatic corps were then introduced to the Mozambican leader.

Present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Chissano and his 34-member delegation, including several ministers, are here at the invitation of Tuanku Ja'afar.

The president will leave for the prime minister's Office later for a bilateral meeting with Dr Mahathir and is scheduled to attend a luncheon organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia this afternoon.

Tonight, Chissano and his wife will have an audience with Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah followed by a state banquet.

The president's programme here includes briefings at the Economic Planning Unit and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority as well as visits to the Proton automobile plant in Shah Alam and the Jalan Jelatek low-cost housing project here. -- BERNAMA

MAM JK