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Kumaratunga-Visit

SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who arrives here on Monday for a four-day state visit, is expected to consolidate relations between the two nations since establishing ties in 1957.

A Wisma Putra statement issued here today said Kumaratunga, who will be accompanied by a delegation of some 40 officials and businessmen, will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Parliament Square.

She will have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah at the Istana Negara before attending a state banquet later in the evening.

The Sri Lankan leader will also receive Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the hotel where she will be staying during her visit.

Both Kumaratunga and Dr Mahathir will lead their respective governments to a meeting which will focus on bilateral, regional and international issues at the Prime Minister's Department.

She will also deliver a keynote address entitled "Cooperation and Conformity in Globalisation" at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, here. She will visit an industrial park in Melaka.

Being the first Sri Lankan head of state to set foot in the country, Kumaratunga's visit is expected to put the economic and trade relations between the two nations in a better position.

Sri Lanka's imports from Malaysia amounted to RM397 million last year compared to its exports which stood at RM66 million.

Its imports include petroleum, manufactured goods, chemical products, electrical goods and transportation equipment while its exports to Malaysia are retreaded tyres, gems, machinery and transportation parts and porcelain items.

-- BERNAMA

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