

23 APR 1998

BURKINA FASO PRESIDENT ACCORDED OFFICIAL WELCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore who arrived yesterday for a five-day state visit was accorded an official ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square here today.

He was greeted on arrival by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar. Also present was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The national anthems of both countries were played and the African leader was accorded a 21-gun salute.

Compaore also inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 107 officers and men from the First Royal Malay Regiment led by Mej Romainor Mohamad.

He was later introduced to Cabinet ministers and members of the foreign diplomatic corps.

Dr Mahathir and Compaore will hold delegation-level talks in the afternoon.

Tuanku Ja'afar will grant an audience to Compaore this evening before hosting a state banquet in his honour at Istana Negara tonight.

Burkina Faso is a former French administrative district on the southern fringe of the Sahara and has a population of 9.5 million.

-- BERNAMA

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