

22 APR 1998

Burkina-visit

BURKINA FASO PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 (Bernama) -- Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore arrived here today for a five-day state visit to Malaysia to boost bilateral ties.

He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Ablasse Ouedraogo, Trade, Industry and Handicraft Minister Idrissa Zampalegre, Agriculture and Animal Resources Minister Michel Koutaba and a 26-member delegation.

Compaore was received at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang near here by Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Leo Michael Toyad and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, who is the Minister-in-Attendance.

He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square tomorrow after which he will receive Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In the afternoon, the African leader is scheduled to attend a delegation meeting to be chaired by Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Department.

The meeting would focus on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest.

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

Compaore will also have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar who will host a state banquet at Istana Negara here in honour of the president.

On Friday, Compaore is scheduled to attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department followed by a visit to several places, including the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building in the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and the second national car assembly plant in Rawang near here.

On Saturday, he will attend briefings at the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mardi) in Serdang on Malaysia's strategies for investment promotion, economic planning and agro-based production.

Compaore's visit ends on Sunday.

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