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Ceremonial welcome for Queen E

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Queen Elizabeth II who arrived yesterday for a four-day state visit was accorded an official ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square this morning.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip, she was greeted upon arrival by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah.

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

The Queen was led to a dais, after which the national anthems of Britain and Malaysia were played by the Royal Armour Corp Band against the background of a 21-gun salute booming out over the square.

Tuanku Ja'afar then accompanied the Queen to inspect a guard of honour mounted by the first battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Major Abdul Basit Abdul Rahman.

The Queen also met Cabinet ministers and their wives, diplomats and members of the British community including schoolchildren.

Later, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah called on the Queen and Prince Philip at Carcosa Seri Negara.

In the afternoon, the Queen visited the Commonwealth Games International Zone in Bukit Jalil, touring the medical centre, cafeteria and recreational facilities.

She got a brief taste of Malaysia's public transport system when she boarded a Light Rail Transit train for Stadium Nasional, one stop away from the Games Village.

The Queen watched the athletics finals and presented the medals.

In the night, she declared the 16th Commonwealth Games closed at a glittering ceremony attended by Tuanku Ja'afar and Dr Mahathir.

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