

03/08/1998

Djibouti President arrives for state visit

DJIBOUTI president El Hag Hassan Gouled Aptidon arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for a nine-day state visit of Malaysia. The visit, the first by the president, is on the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar.

The president was received on arrival at the KL International Airport in Sepang by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, who is the minister-in-attendance.

Accompanying Aptidon on the visit is Djibouti Commerce and Industry Minister Mohammed Barkat Abdillahi, Transport and Telecommunications Minister Abdallah Abdillahi Miguil, several senior government officials and businessmen.

Wisma Putra, in a statement released in conjunction with the visit, said a state welcoming ceremony for the president will be held at the Parliament Square today.

During the nine-day state visit, he will have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong and attend a state banquet at Istana Negara.

He will also hold a delegation meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The delegation meeting will focus of bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

Several visits and tours have also been organised for Aptidon and his delegation. These include visits to the International Islamic University of Malaysia in Gombak, the Kuala Lumpur City Centre Twin Towers and Petronas as well as the Kuala Lumpur Tower.

The president will also visit West Port, Port Klang and tour the Klang Multi-Terminal.

He will also visit Genting Highlands before leaving for home on August 10.

A separate programme has also been drafted for the ministers accompanying the president. These include briefings by the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department, the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, the Multimedia Development Corp as well as visits to the Telekom Institute, Cyberjaya and Selangor State Development Corp in Shah Alam.

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