

10 AUG 1998

DJIBOUTIAN PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR HOME

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti left for home this morning after a nine-day state visit to Malaysia which has further enhanced bilateral ties.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, who was the minister-in-attendance, and Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Leo Micheal Toyad were at the KL International Airport in Sepang to see him off.

The President had made a farewell call on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negara on Thursday.

He also held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that were followed with the signing of two agreements on Promotion and Protection of Investment and Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation.

Djibouti has offered to be a gateway for Malaysian products to the huge east African market of some 130 million people.

The president's visit -- his first to Malaysia -- was at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

A former French territory, Djibouti is located in the eastern region of the African continent. Its neighbours are Somalia to the south, Ethiopia to the west and Eritrea to the north.

-- BERNAMA

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