

02 AUG 1998

President

DJIBOUTIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR STATE VISIT

SEPANG, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti arrived here today to begin a nine-day state visit to Malaysia to further enhance bilateral ties.

An official welcoming ceremony for him will be held at Parliament Square here tomorrow morning.

President Aptidon is visiting Malaysia for the first time at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar.

He was met on arrival at the KL International Airport here 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.

The Djibouti entourage includes Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohamed Barkat Abdillah and Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Abdallah Abdillahi Miguil, senior government officials and businessmen.

President Aptidon's itinerary includes an audience with Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah at Istana Negara tomorrow.

He will lead the Djibouti delegation for bilateral talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister Department.

Among the places he will be visiting during his stay here are the International Islamic University (IIU), Petronas, the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), the Kuala Lumpur Tower and Port Klang.

The Djiboutian ministers will also attend separate briefings by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) and the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC).

Djibouti, a former French territory of 22,000 sq km in area, is located in the eastern region of the African continent known as the Horn of Africa.

Its neighbours are Somalia to the south, Ethiopia to the west and Eritrea to the north.

Djibouti has a population of 434,000 and a service-based economy.

-- BERNAMA

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