

15 JUL 1998

ERITREAN PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI ARRIVES TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki will arrive here tomorrow for a two-day official visit at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar.

Afwerki, to be accompanied by Transport and Communications Minister Salih Kekia and five senior officials, will be accorded a state welcome at Parliament Square.

Afwerki would hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Foreign Ministry said in statement today.

He will also attend briefings at the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) and the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department and tour Port Klang and the Kuala Lumpur City Centre.

The visit is the first by an Eritrean President since the east African country gained independence from Ethiopia on May 27, 1993.

Eritrea, bordering the Red Sea between Djibouti and Sudan, has an area of 121,320 square kilometres and a population of 3.7 million comprising Christians and Muslims.

--BERNAMA

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