

22 OCT 1998

Ethiopia-Visit

ETHIOPIAN PRIME MINISTER ACCORDED OFFICIAL WELCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who arrived last night for a five-day visit to Malaysia was accorded an official ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square, here, today.

He was greeted on arrival by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The national anthems of both countries were played by the Royal Malay Regiment Central Band led by Kapten Norman Kamaruddin.

Zenawi, accompanied by Dr Mahathir, also inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 106 officers and men from the First Battalion of the Royal Malay regiment led by Mejar Abdul Basit Abdul Rahman.

Cabinet ministers and members of the foreign diplomatic corps were later introduced to him.

Zenawi, who is here at the invitation of Dr Mahathir, was accompanied by the republic's Minister of Trade and Industry Kasahaun Ayele, senior government officials and a 43-member private-sector delegation.

Among the highlights of the visit are a delegation meeting at the Prime Minister's Department focusing on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern and an audience with Tuanku Jaafar.

Dr Mahathir will host a dinner in honour of his guest at Seri Perdana, later this evening.

Zenawi and his delegation will also visit the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (Porim), Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim), Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRI), Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) and a Felda scheme in Serting, Bahau, Negeri Sembilan.

-- BERNAMA

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