

25 MAY 1998

Suriname - welcome

KING WELCOMES SURINAME PRESIDENT AT PARLIAMENT SQUARE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- Suriname President Jules Wijdenbosch was accorded an official welcoming ceremony at Parliament Square here at the start of his two-day state visit today.

He was received by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar.

Wijdenbosch inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 107 officers and men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment commanded by Major Abdul Basit Abdul Rahman.

The president and his wife Patricia d'Leon were later introduced to members of the Cabinet, deputy ministers and heads of foreign missions here.

Wijdenbosch and his delegation, which includes several ministers, arrived last night. The visit is at the invitation of the King.

Wijdenbosch is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for talks and witness the signing of several bilateral agreements at the Prime Minister's Department later today.

Tonight, Tuanku Ja'afar will host a state banquet for the president at Istana Negara.

Wijdenbosch will attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department and visit the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (Porim) in Bangi near here tomorrow.

Suriname, whose capital is Paramaribo, is located in northern South America bordering Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana and the North Atlantic Ocean.

-- BERNAMA

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