

26 MAY 1998

Suriname-Farewell

SURINAME PRESIDENT MAKES FAREWELL CALL ON KING

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26 (Bernama) -- President Jules Wijdenbosch of Suriname, who concluded a two-day state visit to Malaysia today, had a farewell audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, at Istana Negara here.

Tuanku Ja'afar hosted Wijdenbosch to a state banquet at the palace last night.

This morning, Wijdenbosch visited the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (Porim) in Bandar Baru Bangi.

In his remarks, Porim Director-General Datuk Dr Yusuf Basiron expressed the hope that Malaysian companies would be interested to participate in the upstream and downstream activities of Suriname's palm oil industry.

He said it was learnt that the palm oil industry in Suriname, located north of South America, was in its infancy and needed financial and technical expertise to help it develop.

"The government of Suriname, therefore is encouraging joint ventures with foreigners to invest in that industry there," he added.

Yesterday, Wijdenbosch held talks with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Office where Malaysia indicated its willingness to assist Suriname in its path towards development.

Both countries also inked a trade agreement to further boost bilateral trade which stood at a paltry RM2 million last year.

-- BERNAMA

MAM JK