

12 MAR 1998

Vietnam-Visit

VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong will begin a three-day state visit to Malaysia on Monday, aimed at further enhancing bilateral ties between the two Southeast Asian nations.

The visit, the first by a Vietnamese Head of State to Malaysia, is also to reciprocate the visit by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar to Vietnam in 1995, a Wisma Putra statement, here, says.

It will be the president's first visit abroad since assuming office last September.

Duc Luong will be accompanied by a 35-member delegation comprising several ministers, deputy ministers, senior government officials and the country's business community.

He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square immediately after arrival and will be hosted to a state banquet at Istana Negara by Tuanku Ja'afar, the statement says.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to call on the Vietnamese leader on the first day of the visit and exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

"The financial and economic situation on the region is also expected to feature prominently in the prime minister's discussions with the president," the statement adds.

Duc Luong is also scheduled to address leading Malaysian businessmen at a luncheon meeting organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

His programme includes visits to the Petronas Twin Towers, Golden Hope Plantation and Refinery in Sepang, the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kepong and the Art and Handicraft Complex here. -- BERNAMA

RV JK